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EVENTS

♦ THAT CHANGED THE ♦

WORLD

From the makers of
**ALL ABOUT
HISTORY**



Digital
Edition

FUTURE

SIXTH
EDITION

ALL ABOUT
HISTORY

EVENTS

♦ THAT CHANGED THE ♦

WORLD

The Battle of Waterloo, Martin Luther King Jr's famous speech, 9/11 - there are some events in history's infinite stream of moments that truly stand out as turning points. These landmarks changed the course of politics, civil rights, countries and continents. In short, they are the events that shaped our world. We explore these in detail here, from the inauguration of George Washington, first president of the USA, in 1789, to the first atomic bomb, dropped on Hiroshima in 1945 causing unfathomable devastation, and beyond. Discover the events that led to the First World War, the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the fight for suffrage and the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, plus the lasting legacy of these iconic moments. Together, they form a turbulent story that is harrowing, sobering and inspiring in equal measure.





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EVENTS ♦ THAT CHANGED THE ♦ WORLD

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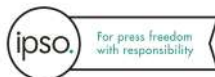
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HISTORY**
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Ancient Greece to 9/11 - history's game-changers revealed

6 JUNE 1944

THE BIGGEST INVASION

D-Day and the first step towards ending the Second World War

On 6 June 1944, the Allied Troops under the direction of General Dwight D Eisenhower and Bernard Montgomery took the first step towards breaking Hitler's stranglehold on Europe with a massive assault on the French coast - the largest amphibious attack in history.

In the preceding months the Allies had mounted a decoy operation, Operation Fortitude, in an attempt to convince the Axis forces that they would attempt to cross at Pas de Calais, where the English Channel is narrowest. Meanwhile, Operation Overlord had been poised since 1 May but favourable weather conditions were vital to the plan's success. After being postponed several times, Operation Overlord finally went into effect and the Allied forces set foot on Normandy beaches at 6:30am.

The troops taking part in the amphibious assault comprised 72,215 British and Canadian soldiers, and 57,500 Americans. They were divided to attack five targets, designated Utah (US), Omaha (US), Gold (UK), Juno (Canada), and Sword (UK),

over 80 kilometres (50 miles) of coastline. With its cliff-top bunkers, which had not suffered much damage from the preceding aerial bombardment, Omaha was the most heavily defended, and the attacking US forces took heavy casualties before taking the beach. However, the decoy had worked. The German military was not alerted that an invasion was occurring until 4am. The attack did not just come from the sea, however. After midnight on 6 June, American, British and Canadian paratroopers were dropped into Normandy to facilitate the attack at Utah beach, which would give the Allies access to Cherbourg harbour. Due to the adverse weather conditions, many of the paratroopers missed their targets, but vital locations like Pegasus Bridge and the town of Sainte-Mère-Église would be captured.

At 6.00pm, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced the invasion in the House of Commons. By midnight, each of the five beaches had been taken and the liberation of Europe from Nazi Germany was well underway.

Origins

- Five years of conflict **1939-1944**
- Germany's failed invasion of Russia **1941**
- America enters the war **1941**

Legacy

- Peace in Europe
- Atomic bombs and Japanese defeat
- Formation of the United Nations



A landing craft just vacated by invasion troops points towards a fortified beach on the Normandy Coast, June 6, 1944



A project initiated by Pericles in 447 BCE the Parthenon is often seen as an enduring symbol of Athenian democracy

508 BCE

DAWN OF DEMOCRACY

The first democratic, people-led government in Ancient Greece...

The Athenians certainly couldn't imagine life without democracy. Athens was one of the most prosperous of some 1,500 city-states (poleis) in 6th-century-BCE Greece, initially governed by an elite ruling minority. Internal unrest and costly conflict with its neighbours, however, gradually brought the city to its knees. Taking inspiration from rival Sparta, with its unusual egalitarian ethos, democracy was seen as an experiment that could unify society.

Shaped by Solon, Cleisthenes and Pericles - among others - and evolving over two centuries, every Athenian citizen was expected to get involved, though a randomly drawn, rotating council took care of day-to-day government. Forward thinking as it was, democracy was a totally different beast then - with women, foreigners and many others not represented. Nevertheless it laid the foundations for what is now a cornerstone of the modern world.

Origins

- Solon's reforms mean all Athenian citizens must participate in the Ecclesia (Assembly) **594 BCE**
- Cleisthenes introduces a policy of equal rights **508 BCE**

Legacy

- The French Revolution sees the ruling monarchy overthrown **1787-1799**
- Lincoln's 'government of the people, by the people, for the people' speech **1863**

11 SEPTEMBER 2001

THE DAY AMERICA WAS ATTACKED

The terrorist attacks of 9/11

"The sights were mind-boggling. I thought for a second a movie was being made."

Firefighter Mickey Kross was inside the World Trade Center's North Tower when it collapsed, yet even for those of us witnessing that indelible news footage on the other side of the world, his words resonate.

Just 46 minutes after American Airlines Flight 11 took off in Boston, five terrorists had taken over and flown the plane into the iconic building that would later tumble down around Kross. It was one of four hijackings that day, all of which hit their targets, except for one: United Flight 93's passengers reclaimed the plane and ensured it crashed out of harm's way in a Pennsylvania field.

Everyone has an opinion about what caused 9/11, but more clear-cut are the effects. In the immediate sense, it resulted in the deaths of 2,996 people - the most ever in a single foreign attack on American soil. In the longer term, it forced the hand of American foreign policy. The War on Terror had begun.

Origins

- Soviet Union invades Afghanistan **December 1979**
- Al-Qaeda (The Base) emerges, calling on Muslims to join the 'holy war' **1988**
- First World Trade Center bomb kills six people **26 February 1993**

Legacy

- Launch of the War on Terror
- War in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Osama bin Laden is killed by US Navy SEALs **2 May 2011**



1989

INVENTING THE WORLD WIDE WEB

It's hard to imagine life without the Internet today, but it wouldn't exist if not for one man's vision

It's not as if technology that combined hypertext and the internet for globally sharing information wasn't around in 1989, but British physicist Tim Berners-Lee wanted to take it to another level. When Berners-Lee first proposed the World Wide Web for workers at CERN to co-ordinate their research, his supervisor Mike Sendall wrote: 'Vague but exciting'.

Collaborating with computer scientist Robert Cailliau the prototype software for the basic web system was demonstrated in 1990 on a NeXT computer, and

it rapidly spread to other research labs and universities around the globe. With the development of versions for more ubiquitous Mac and PC environments, the World Wide Web was ready to make the leap from academia to mainstream.

On 30 April 1993, CERN posted the source code for anyone to use, totally free of charge. Just two decades on, there are around 630 million websites and counting.

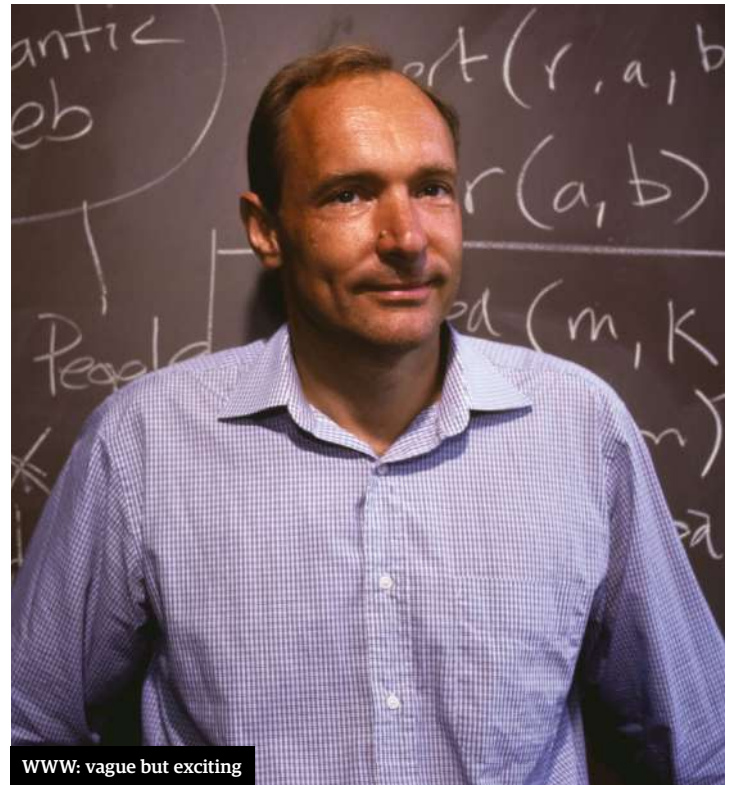
You can see how far the web has come by taking a look at the first web page: info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html.

Origins

- Ted Nelson invents hypertext **1960**
- ARPANET goes live **29 October 1969**
- Ray Tomlinson sends the first email **9 October 1971**

Legacy

- The dawn of social networking
- Era of citizen journalism
- 'Gangnam Style' first to hit 1 billion YouTube views



WWW: vague but exciting

THE FIRST GOLD COINS ARE MINTED

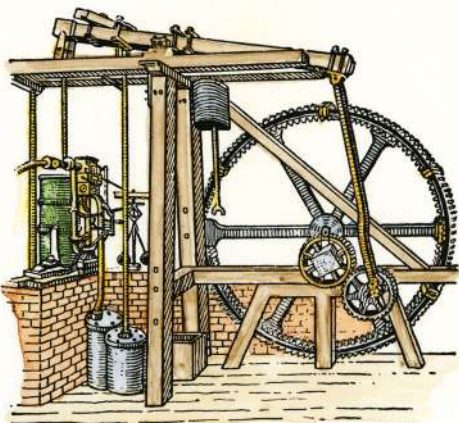
546 BCE

Although gold had already been used as a currency for centuries before, and the first electrum (gold and silver alloy) coins were struck back in the seventh century BCE, the first proper gold coins were minted by King Croesus of the Lydians (modern-day Turkey). This rich nation used its pure gold currency as a statement of wealth and power.

WATT PERFECTS THE STEAM ENGINE

1796

The steam engine, invented by James Watt, did so much more than drive steam trains across the country. It kick-started the Industrial Revolution so that factories could be built anywhere, not just near rivers, and steam-driven machines could do the job of dozens of workers in a fraction of the time.



JFK IS ASSASSINATED

22 NOVEMBER 1963

While being driven through Dealey Plaza in Dallas with his wife Jackie, John F. Kennedy was shot and killed. His death sent shockwaves through the American people and fanned the flames of growing mistrust and fear of their government. There are those who still claim it wasn't Lee Harvey Oswald who pulled the trigger.

THE FIRST PRODUCTION LINE 1908



The assembly line was probably the greatest gift Henry Ford gave to the manufacturing industry. This production process brought the car to the engineers, rather than the other way around. It halved the time it took to create his Model T Ford and dramatically cut costs.

THE TENNIS COURT OATH

20 JUNE 1789

Political tensions were high when the National Assembly of nobles, clergy and common people gathered at the Palace of Versailles, Paris, on 20 June. They found that King Louis XVI had excluded them and convened in the tennis court where they swore to create a new French constitution - thus sowing the seeds of the French Revolution to come.



The five-day working week 1926

In May 1926, Detroit, Henry Ford instigated a second American revolution. He reduced the working week of Ford Motor Company's workers from six to five days and their working day from nine to eight hours. Productivity at Ford soared as a result of the new, two-day weekend, a practice so successful it was adopted worldwide and is standard today.

THE LAST ROMAN EMPEROR

476 CE

By the late fifth century, the Roman Empire was rapidly losing its millennia-long grip on Europe and the Western World. The Vandals (an East German tribe) had already sacked and pillaged Rome once and, seeing Rome's weakness, others were rallying against their ruler. Germanic general Odoacer finally entered the capital and forced the last emperor of Rome, Romulus Augustus, into exile.

THE FIRST DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY

SEPTEMBER 490 BCE

The Persian Empire wanted to punish Greece for supporting the Ionians. When the outnumbered Athenians attacked first at Marathon, the Persians struck for the weak middle of their line. The strongest troops were on the Athenian flanks, which decimated the invaders. The forces of democratic Greece had not only stood up to the forces of Persia, they crushed them.

NAPOLÉON SURRENDERS

1815

After being forced to abdicate by the French parliament, Napoleon Bonaparte requested protection from the British, who allowed him on board the British ship Bellerophon, commanded by Captain Thomas Byam Martin, where he was held in custody for some three weeks before exile to the island of St Helena in the South Atlantic.



SLAVERY IS ABOLISHED

31 JANUARY 1865

Three years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and with the Civil War still raging, Abraham Lincoln took a bold step and pushed for the 13th Amendment to be approved by Congress. Even without the Southern representatives the vote barely made it through, but its success marked the start of a long fight for equality.

ROME ADOPTS CHRISTIANITY

28 OCTOBER 312 CE

Ancient Rome was a dangerous time to be a Christian, until the Emperor Constantine looked up before the Battle of Milvian Bridge and saw a flaming cross bearing the words "In this sign shalt thou conquer." Converted by his vision and his victory, Constantine's new faith began the Christianisation of the Roman Empire.



Gavrilo Princip is captured after killing Franz Ferdinand, which led to the start of the Eastern European conflict

MURDER AT SARAJEVO

28 JUNE 1914

Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife fell to the gunshots fired by 19 year-old Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip, as they drove through the city. Princip was one of a group of six Bosnian Serb assassins. Austria's retaliation was backed by Germany, and Europe exploded into conflict.



BOSTON TEA PARTY

16 DECEMBER 1773

The American colonists' patience with the British parliament was at an end. Why should they obey a body they had no hand in electing? When The Sons of Liberty in Boston threw three ship loads of tea into the harbour, the shocked British were set on a path for war.

9000 BCE

AGRICULTURE ARRIVES

The human race takes the first step away from hunter-gatherer culture and begins to settle down

The exact site, the exact reason, and the exact date of the invention of agriculture has yet to be pinpointed. Various theories have been put forth as to why, when and how men and women began to tend to and rear their own crops and livestock, with many variations on similar themes. However, it is generally agreed that the innovation occurred shortly after 9000 BCE, and that the site of the invention of agriculture was in what is now the known as the Fertile Crescent, in the Middle East.

Climate change meant that the Levant area (in the Eastern Mediterranean) became the ideal site for settlers. As the region became temperate and annual (rather than perennial), plants like wild wheat and barley began to grow that produced large seeds rather than thick wooden stems or casings to protect them from the elements. The Natufian tribes of that region were traditionally hunter-gatherers but the ever-

increasing proliferation of this vegetation made settlement an attractive proposition. However, steps would have to be taken to ensure they did not drain the area of resources.

Opinion differs as to whether the decision to try rearing crops was pre-meditated, and many believe that it was a one-off experimentation rather than a strategy designed to provide them with a regular form of sustenance. However, the combination of climate change and increasingly settled populations meant that this dabbling with crop-development was inevitable. The technology began to improve and these tribes began to rear livestock, which similarly thrived in the Levant region, and tended to renewable crops. The nomadic culture by which the human race lived would forever be altered. The first step towards human society as we know it today, with its vast towns and cities, all started with agriculture.

Origins

- **Circa 9600 BCE:** Climate change and edible plants
- **Circa 9000 BCE:** Tribes turn to sedentism
- **Circa 9000 BCE:** Increase in domesticated animals

Legacy

- Irrigation and evolving agricultural technology
- Ever-growing communities
- Intensive farming leading to climate change



4 JULY 1776

A SUPERPOWER IS BORN

The Declaration of Independence, all began with a single document

A 2011 survey showed 61 per cent of Americans favoured Queen Elizabeth II. Had the poll been taken 237 years ago the results would have been different.

In early 1776 a political pamphlet titled 'Common Sense' was circulating the colonies. Its author, Thomas Paine, didn't pull any punches when it came to his views of King George III: "How impious is the title of sacred Majesty applied to a worm, who in the midst of his splendour is crumbling to dust."

A few months on, Thomas Jefferson penned a more formal statement, calling for a split from Britain. Adopted by a majority in Congress on 4 July, and agreed by all 13 colonies, it sparked a New York riot, during which the statue of George III was toppled. The final engrossed declaration wasn't signed till 2 August, but America continues to celebrate the day it first voted for 'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness' at the Second Continental Congress.

There are thought to be 26 surviving copies of the original Declaration in existence today, 21 owned by various US institutions. One was even found in the British National Archives in 2009.

Origins

- Britain passes the Stamp Act, ushering taxes on colonies **22 March 1765**
- The Boston Tea Party takes place in protest of the Tea Act **16 December 1773**

Legacy

- Framework for the French Declaration of Rights of man and of the Citizen **1789**
- Polarised slavery, leading to the American Civil War





START OF THE CRUSADES 1096

Launched by the Catholic church by Pope Urban II in 1095, the first crusade to retake the holy lands of Israel was originally to help the Byzantines repel the warring Turks, but soon evolved into a holy war to take back Jerusalem. The successful campaign was the first of many 'holy' crusades that transformed the Middle East.

THE FIRST VACCINE

14 MAY 1796

The first vaccine for smallpox came courtesy of a microbiologist. Testing the rumour that milkmaids were immune from it because they had already contracted the similar illness cowpox, Edward Jenner took pus from Sarah Nelmes' cowpox blisters and successfully inoculated an eight year-old boy.

THE COMPASS IS INVENTED

1117

The first magnetic compasses, thought to have appeared in China during the Qin Dynasty, were not used for exploration, but rather for geomantic divination and feng shui. The magnetic compass continued to develop in China until its first recorded use for navigation in 1117, and was used by European sailors soon after, revolutionising navigation and opening the oceans to exploration.

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE FALLS

334-330 BCE

In roughly three years, Alexander the Great brought about the fall of the 200 year-old Persian Empire. Challenging Darius III's superior numbers in 334 BCE, Alexander won successive victories until his opponent fled from the battlefield at Gaugamela in 331 BCE. Persia's surrender ended one of the most formidable empires.



OIL IN SAUDI ARABIA

1938

The hunt for oil in Saudi Arabia began in 1922 but it wasn't until 1938 that eager American Max Steineke finally discovered a reserve of black gold, just weeks after having to plead with his employers for more time. The discovery changed the world's energy practices and its relationship with the Arab world.

"Workers of the world, unite!" 1848

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' Communist Manifesto is one of the most influential (and most quoted) political manuscripts. Its ethos of power to the working class has been the mandate of many coups since it was first published by German political refugees in London.

THE END OF THE AZTECS

1521

Having landed in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico in 1519, the Spanish discovered a wealthy native people known as the Aztecs, expanding their control beyond Mexico. That ground to a halt with an invasion led by Hernando Cortes. The Aztec population was devastated by new diseases like smallpox and were overthrown by the better armed invaders.

44 events that changed the world

Apartheid ends in South Africa 1994

Apartheid (the state of being apart) was legislated in 1948 in South Africa, with four racial groups classified and forced into segregation. After trade embargoes in the Eighties and growing civil unrest, its gradual breakdown culminated in Nelson Mandela's victorious abolition of the internationally hated regime.

LENIN DIES 21 JANUARY 1924

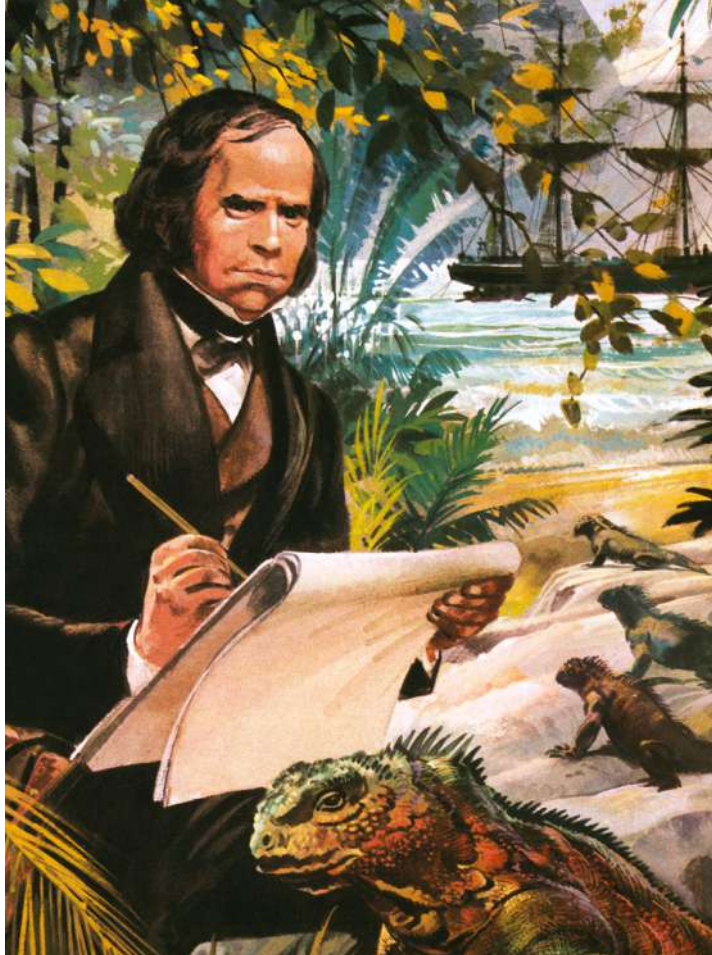
Lenin was bedridden and mute following three strokes by the time of his death. While Trotsky seemed to be the natural successor, he was efficiently sidelined and subsequently expelled by Stalin, paving the way for one of history's most appalling dictators.

WRITING IS INVENTED 3200 BCE

Writing sprung out of a need to keep records in court when memory proved insufficient. It was invented in Central and South America in the seventh century BCE and Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) in 3200 BCE. True writing is distinct from early bronze age symbols and the use of digits to keep records.

THE TURING MACHINE IS INVENTED 1936

It must be a strange thing, to invent something years before anyone could even conceive of needing it. Yet this is exactly what Alan Turing did when he invented the computer. Moreover, his invention was an intangible mathematical theory for a computer, rather than a working machine, which wasn't used until Turing's tenure at Bletchley Park.



DARWIN TAKES AN OCEAN VOYAGE

1831-1836

Charles Darwin's discoveries on his voyage to South America on HMS Beagle would forever change our understanding of the world around us. Forming the idea that one species could change into another, he began work on his theory of natural selection and published *On The Origin Of The Species* on 24 November 1859.

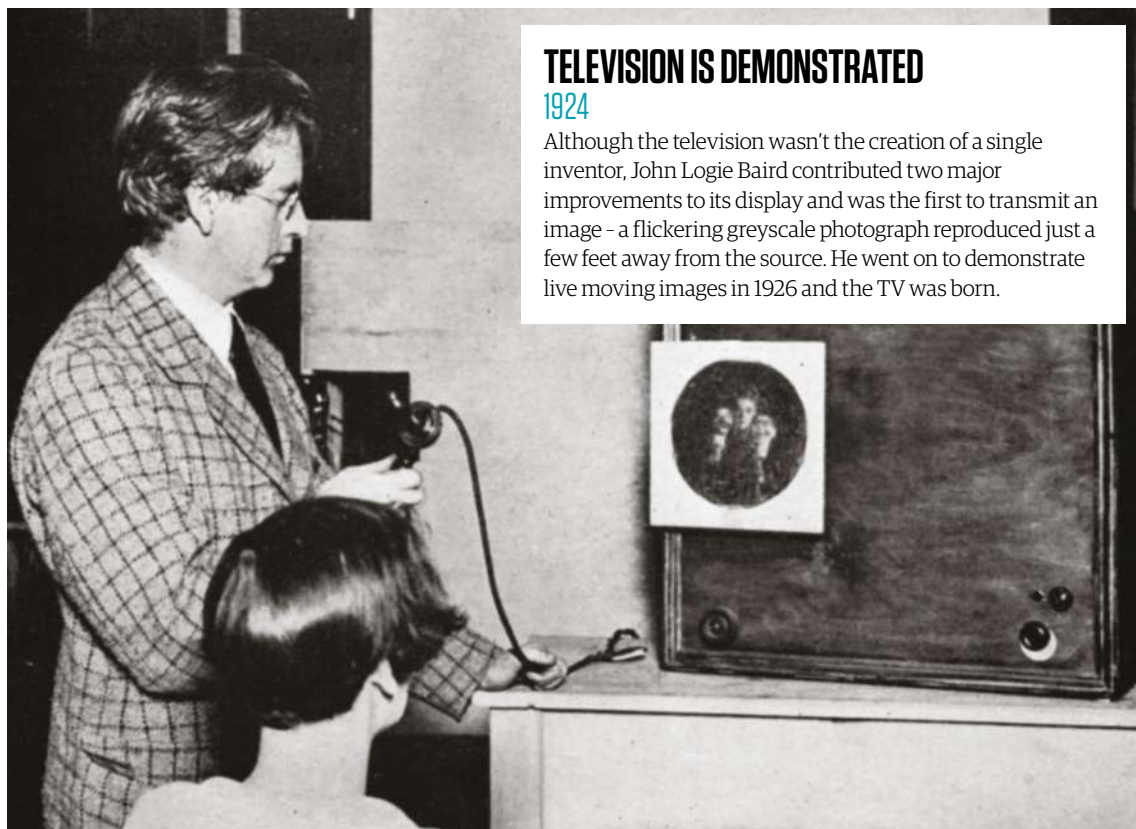
ROSA PARKS REFUSES TO STAND 1955

When Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat in the 'coloured' section of the bus for a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama, she became the rallying point for a nation that would no longer accept the injustice of racial segregation. "The only tired I was," she said, "was tired of giving in."



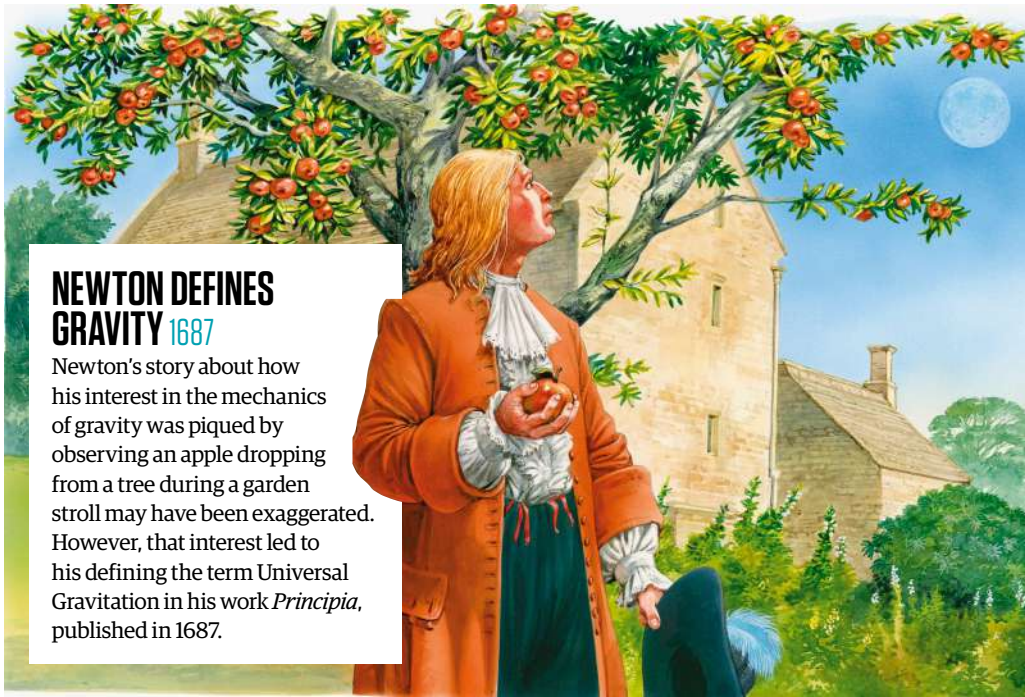
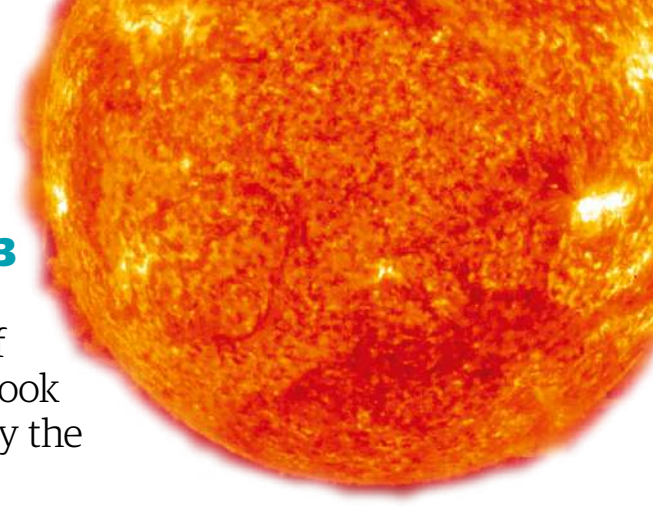
TELEVISION IS DEMONSTRATED 1924

Although the television wasn't the creation of a single inventor, John Logie Baird contributed two major improvements to its display and was the first to transmit an image - a flickering greyscale photograph reproduced just a few feet away from the source. He went on to demonstrate live moving images in 1926 and the TV was born.



The Sun becomes the centre of the solar system 1543

After years of fearing controversy, Copernicus decided to finally publish his theory of heliocentrism in the last year of his life. His theory that the Earth revolves around the Sun, took more than a century to be accepted, and Galileo was tried by the Inquisition for heresy in 1663 after agreeing to it.



NEWTON DEFINES GRAVITY 1687

Newton's story about how his interest in the mechanics of gravity was piqued by observing an apple dropping from a tree during a garden stroll may have been exaggerated. However, that interest led to his defining the term Universal Gravitation in his work *Principia*, published in 1687.

TELEPHONE IS INVENTED

1876

The telephone is one of the most important inventions of the modern era, which makes the story behind its invention all the more controversial. Alexander Graham Bell was officially credited as the inventor because he got his patent filed hours before a strikingly similar patent by Elisha Gray, but some believe he stole a critical line from Gray's patent to get his approved first. Either way, Bell is widely regarded as its inventor.

THE FIRST OLYMPICS

776 BCE

In honour of Zeus, father of all the gods and men, the ancient Greeks held the first Olympic Games at the sanctuary of Zeus in Olympia. Only Greek men could enter, there were far fewer events than there are today, and many participated completely naked. They were held every four years until 394 CE, when the Romans banned them for years in their campaign of Christianity.

THE PILGRIM FATHERS LAND

NOVEMBER 1620

The Puritan Pilgrim Fathers believed that Satan's grip on England was strengthening. So they set sail on the Mayflower for Virginia to create a new community. They landed near Cape Cod after being blown off course after 65 days at sea, and founded the historic Plymouth Colony on the site of a deserted Native American settlement.

THE TET OFFENSIVE LAUNCHES

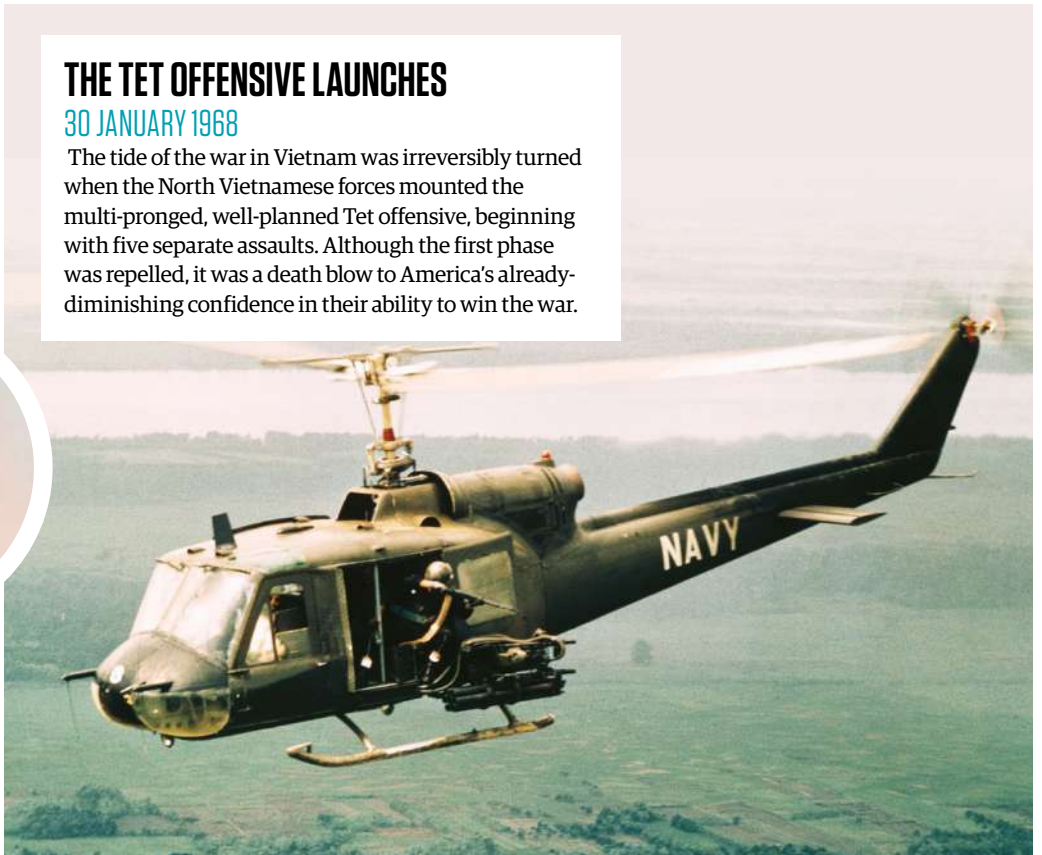
30 JANUARY 1968

The tide of the war in Vietnam was irreversibly turned when the North Vietnamese forces mounted the multi-pronged, well-planned Tet offensive, beginning with five separate assaults. Although the first phase was repelled, it was a death blow to America's already-diminishing confidence in their ability to win the war.

MAO PROCLAIMS THE REPUBLIC

1 OCTOBER 1949

20 years of Chinese civil war were ended by Chairman Mao's defeat of Chiang Kai-shek. The country then established itself as a communist nation. American fears grew, strengthened by the knowledge that they had tried to intervene and failed. Diplomatic relations between the two nations would only be resumed with Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972.



1905

THE LAWS OF PHYSICS REWRITTEN

"Politics is for the present, but an equation is something for eternity"

Part of Albert Einstein's special theory of relativity published in 1905, $E=mc^2$ is by far his most well-known legacy. Despite its straightforward appearance, it deals with the complex and interchangeable relationship between mass and energy. The equation was born from a discrepancy between the work of earlier physicists – like Isaac Newton, Galileo and James Clerk Maxwell – and unravels why the speed of light is constant, as well as the concept of space-time. Einstein completely blew apart the

once widely accepted notion of a 'clockwork universe'.

$E=mc^2$ was preceded by several other ground-breaking papers and the clerk-turned-science-superstar then

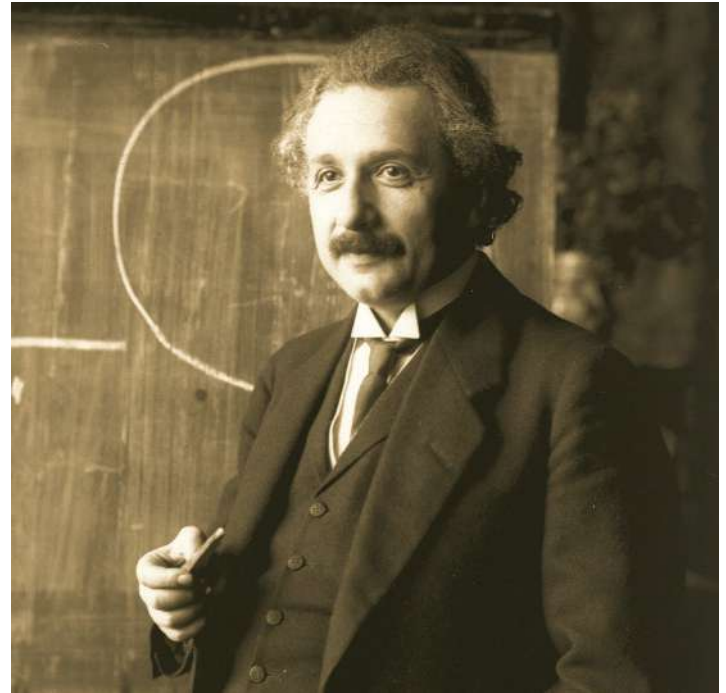
went on to demystify many other physics conundrums, including general relativity in 1916. While universally lauded as one of modern history's greatest minds, he remained humble: "I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious," he said.

Origins

- Ole Roemer measures the speed of light **1676**
- Émilie du Châtelet suggests energy is proportional to mv^2 , not mv (as proposed by Isaac Newton) **1740**

Legacy

- Better understanding of the Big Bang
- 3D medical PET scans
- Rise of nuclear power



BENZ INVENTS THE CAR

1885

German engineer Karl Benz is credited as the creator of the first petrol-powered automobile. However, the Benz Patent Motorwagen was more of a tricycle with the vital part of his invention – his patented two-stroke petrol engine – attached to it.



CHINA'S LAST EMPEROR FALLS 1912

Emperor Pu Yi succeeded to the throne at two years old in 1908. Aged five, he was forced to abdicate by the Xinhai Revolution that turned China into a republic. Strangely,

he was permitted to keep his title and many of his privileges. He fled after World War II and, when recaptured by China, became gardener at the Beijing gardens.



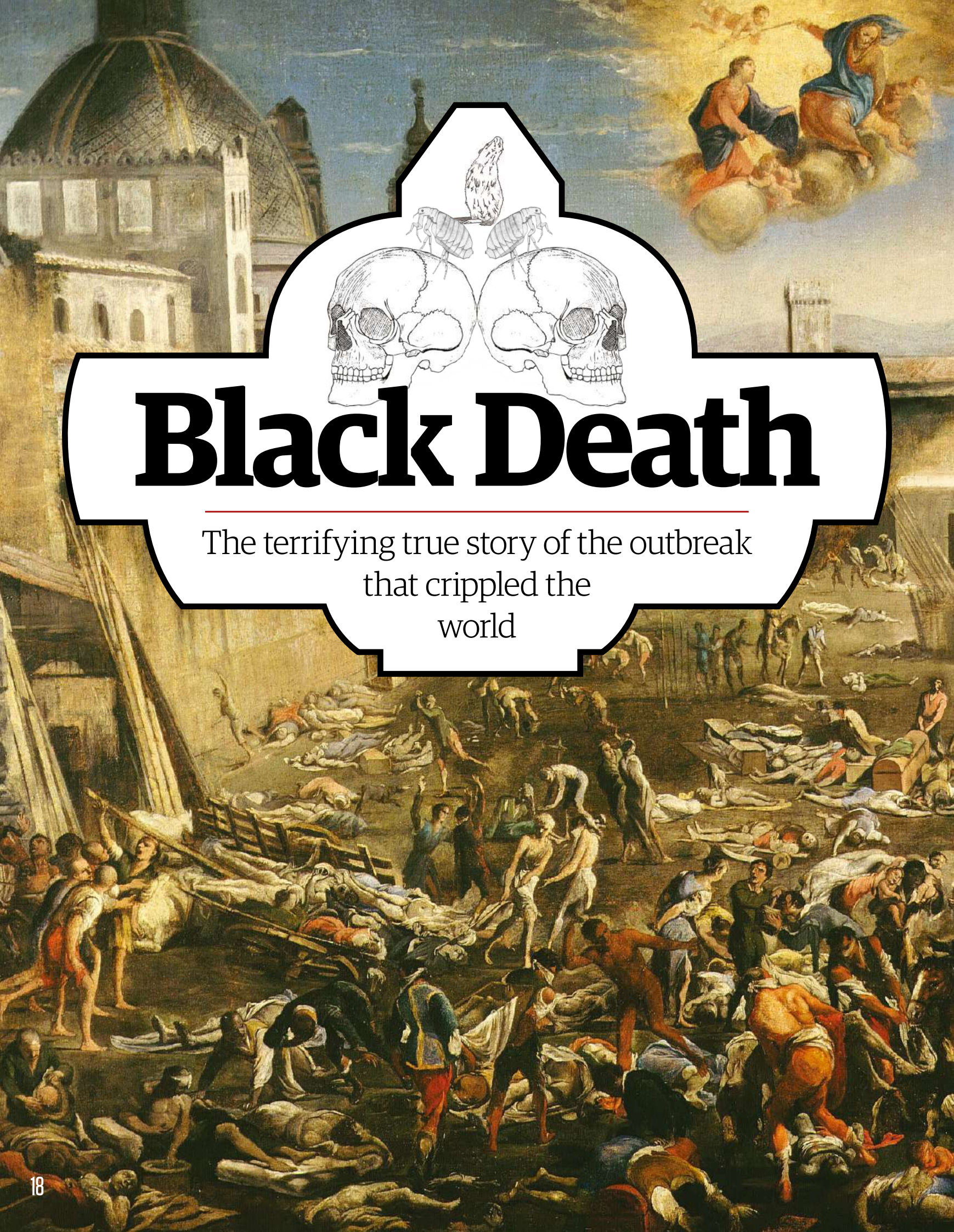
Mandela is freed 1990

Having just avoided execution, Nelson Mandela was tried by the South African government for sabotage, treason and violent conspiracy in 1964 and sentenced to life imprisonment. He served over 25 years of his sentence and was released in a dramatically different political environment, he went on to become leader of the ANC and abolished apartheid in 1994.



Black Death

The terrifying true story of the outbreak
that crippled the
world



DEFINING MOMENT

BLACK DEATH, 1346-53

One of the most devastating pandemics in human history, millions died and an entire continent was brought to its knees.

After enjoying generations of sunshine and warmer climes, Europe had undergone an unprecedented population boom that saw more people living on the continent than ever before. At the turn of the first millennium there were 24 million people in Europe, and by 1340 this had reached 54 million.

Entire countries were straining at the edges of their farmlands and eating into the forests, and the availability of food was beginning to reach the limits of population support. A dire evil, however, stalked the land, just as the Little Ice Age began, and a century later Europe's population had plummeted to 37 million.

The origins of the deadly disease are unknown. Many believe it emerged in South-East Africa and crept along the Nile to the Eurasian continent. This monster scurried on a million legs through the dank holds of ships, grain-stuffed silos and mills, filthy streets and docks slick with grime - and much worse in years to come.

It sprang from the backs of great black rats, borne in the blood of fleas infected with *Yersinia pestis*, and thrived in the blood-flecked sputum of the plague's violently coughing victims. It wept from the bulbous, stinking sores that erupted in people's groins and armpits. It struck fiercely and mercilessly, bringing down towns in a matter of days, erasing families in mere hours.

While we now call this great pandemic that brought Europe to its knees in the mid-14th century the Black Death, it was known by a different name at the time - the apocalyptic moniker, Pestilence. With the Hundred Years' War sweeping western Europe and conflicts with the unstoppable Golden Horde in the east, famine beginning to cripple countries whose populations were at the limits of sustainability, and then sickness swiftly following - bringing with it death - the people of the world knew that Pestilence was upon them, and many feared the apocalypse drew near...

Pestilence is shrouded in mystery, and even now researchers still debate the exact components of the beast and the path it took across the continent. What is certain is that it originated in the eastern end of the continent, and worked its way through the Mongolian Empire before piercing Caffa (now Feodosiya in Ukraine), Sicily and southern Europe, reaching peak strength as it smashed into France and England.

Scientists agree that its main weapon was bubonic plague, a bacterial disease carried by infected fleas that fed on rodents. It was previously thought the black rat was to blame and this is still the belief of many, but recent research suggests it's more likely the disease was carried by the Asian gerbil.

The bacterium itself - *Yersinia pestis* - was a rather nasty piece of work; it would infect the blood of fleas and then cause a buildup of old blood and cells within the proventriculus (a valve preceding the flea's stomach). This blockage meant that when a hungry flea tried to bite its next victim, the high pressure in its stomach would force some of the ingested blood back into the open wound, along with thousands of bacterial cells that had accumulated in the proventriculus.

This swarm of *Yersinia pestis* would then drain along the lymphatic tract of the victim from the source of the bite down to the nearest lymph node. Once there, the bacteria would proceed to colonise the lymph node so entirely that it would swell, stiffen and ooze a rancid pus.

Since most people were bitten on their legs, this would usually be the lymph node in the groin. These enlarged lymph nodes, known as buboes, were the main sign of Pestilence; ugly and painful, they ranged from the size of a grape to a fat orange and they made any movement unbearable.

Before the appearance of the buboes though, victims would have a slight warning. Flu-like symptoms would appear first, swiftly followed by a high fever. Within a day or two these would be joined by 'God's tokens' - small circular rashes, also called roses - that would spread over the body and particularly around infected lymph nodes. Caused by weak blood vessel walls and internal haemorrhaging, they were a sure sign that you didn't just have a nasty cold, as noted by Shakespeare: 'the tokened pestilence where death is sure'. Things tended to move quickly once the buboes had boiled up through the skin. Diarrhoea and vomiting would ensue, as would often septic shock due to the buboes bursting, with respiratory failure and pneumonia wiping up the last sops of life. Within two weeks, four out of five people who contracted the plague died.

Agnolo di Tura del Grasso, a chronicler from Siena, Italy, captured the terror of the time well: 'I do not know where to begin describing its relentless cruelty; almost everyone who witnessed it seemed stupefied by grief. It is not possible for the human tongue to recount such a horrible thing, and those who did not see such horrors can well be called blessed. They died almost immediately; they would swell up under the armpits and in the groin and drop dead while talking. Fathers abandoned their children, wives left their husbands, brothers forsook each other; all fled from each other because it seemed that the disease could be passed on by breath and sight. And so they died, and one could not find people to carry out burials for money or friendship.'

In the face of Pestilence and the approaching end-times, King Philip VI of France commissioned the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Paris to deduce the source of the evil so that it might be eradicated. The findings of these professors did not bode well, for they ascribed the tragedy to the conjunction of Saturn, Mars and Jupiter in Aquarius, and to the position of Saturn in the House of Jupiter - and nothing could be done to challenge the will of the cosmos. At the time, Jupiter was believed to be the source of warm, humid vapours, while hot, dry Mars was thought to ignite them. These pestilential vapours were thought to form a thick, stinking smog of sickness known as a miasma, which was compounded by the sulphurous eruptions of volcanoes and wrathful power of earthquakes.

Believed to be the main culprit of the Black Death, people gave up bathing (as it opened the pores to miasma), barricaded themselves in closed rooms hung with thick tapestries to block out the poisoned air and took to carrying nosegays and pomanders to avail themselves of the evil stench. None of this would save them though.

"It was a staggering loss in this age of arable farming, where the majority of the country's wealth lay in the land"

In 1346, amid reports from the east of biblical plagues - rains of frogs and serpents, hail, stinking smoke and thunder - the Mongols of the Golden Horde attacked Caffa - an island port off the north coast of the Black Sea. The horde laid siege to the city and were all set for a protracted campaign when the Black Death struck them in the back ranks. Suddenly, their army was dying and the siege began to fall apart. What followed is the first known incidence of biological warfare: about to pull back and return to the east, the horde first gathered up the diseased bodies of their dead and catapulted them over the walls of Caffa.

Instantly, Pestilence struck Europe, and though it took around 15 years to cross Asia it would destroy Europe in less than five. As the horde went home, defeated, the Black Death ran around the coast of the Black Sea and straight through the Byzantine Empire (south of modern Bulgaria). By 1347 - just as Joan of England, of the House Plantagenet, was departing Britain to marry Prince Pedro of Castile and form a political alliance - it had arrived on the Mediterranean and struck Messina in Sicily. Here, frightened peasants were beginning to realise that the monster attacked by sea and had started to refuse ships at the port, but it was a case of too little, too late.

Trading ships from Genova and Constantinople carried the plague to the Italian mainland, where it ran up and down the infected rivers, canals and walkways. By 1348, 600 people were dying each day in Venice; Rhodes, Cyprus and Messina had all fallen. The invasion gathered pace and then punched up into the heart of Europe, striking down 60 per cent of Marseille's population and half of Paris's. The bewildering death toll was so high that the mayor of Bordeaux even set fire to the port, in a remarkably prescient move considering the fact that serpents and smog were more feared than rodents at this stage.

Britain fared little better at the time. Arriving on the south coast of England in 1348 - primarily through ports like Bristol, Weymouth and London - the Black Death was to claim 50 per cent of the population and reach a height of around 300 souls each day in London by spring 1349.

It was a staggering loss in this age of arable farming, where the majority of the country's wealth lay in the land. Acres and acres of golden cornfields were left without farmers to sow or plough them; knights and churchmen found themselves working by the sweat of their brows - and this led to the growth of the new yeoman



A plague doctor from the early-1600s

Kill or Cure

A number of herbal treatments were thought to be effective against the Black Death. Sufferers were regularly prescribed, depending on their income, solutions of ground emeralds or potions made from the crushed shells of newly laid eggs mixed with chopped marigolds, ale and treacle. Treacle was, in fact, a leading remedy, though it had to be at least ten years old to have any potency. Another effective, if less appealing, curative was urine - two glasses a day was widely thought to strengthen the constitution and fend off disease.

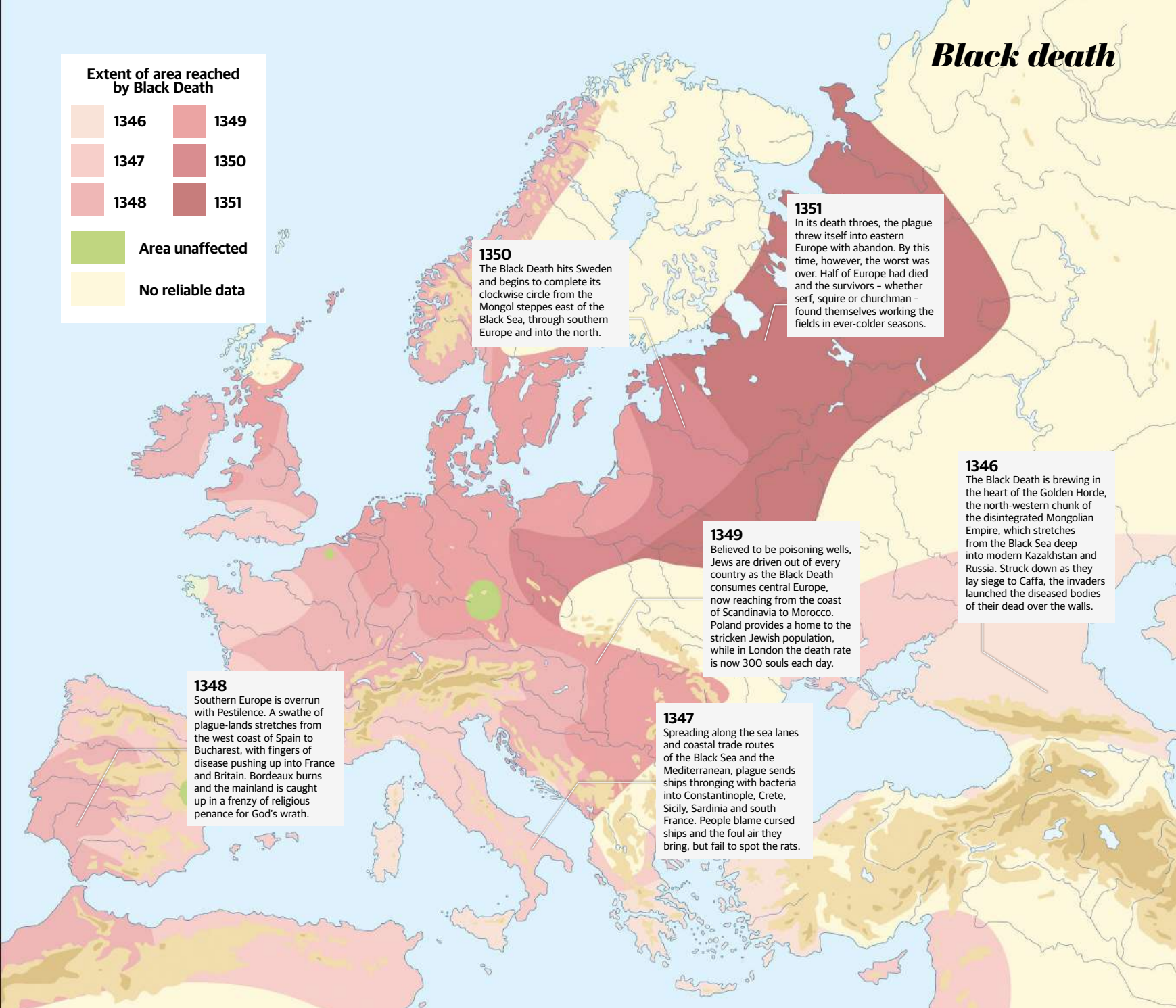
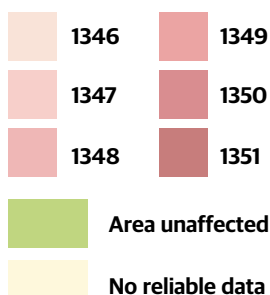
Treatment of the buboes was a trickier affair. In their terror, people believed they could draw out Pestilence by holding bread against the boils and burying it - or, more incredibly, by strapping a live hen to the swelling, rinsing and repeating. Physicians later discovered that

lancing buboes, draining the pus and applying poultices was relatively effective in the affliction's early stages. Such poultices usually consisted of tree resin, white lily root and then dried human excrement, arsenic or dried toad, depending on availability. Less extreme ointments were mixed from cooked onions, butter and garlic, while bloodletting through leeches or incisions and the application of clay and violets was also practised.

For the most part, since the Black Death was allegedly miasmatic, the best preventative measure was thought to be carrying pouches of sweet herbs and spices (or balls of perfume called pomanders), and burning them in your home. Most felt their only options were to fast, pray and join the flagellants in order to pay penance for their sins, and kill suspected witches or well-poisoners, while waiting for Saturn to move out of the House of Jupiter.

Black death

Extent of area reached by Black Death



1348

Southern Europe is overrun with Pestilence. A swathe of plague-lands stretches from the west coast of Spain to Bucharest, with fingers of disease pushing up into France and Britain. Bordeaux burns and the mainland is caught up in a frenzy of religious penance for God's wrath.

1350

The Black Death hits Sweden and begins to complete its clockwise circle from the Mongol steppes east of the Black Sea, through southern Europe and into the north.

1351

In its death throes, the plague threw itself into eastern Europe with abandon. By this time, however, the worst was over. Half of Europe had died and the survivors - whether serf, squire or churchman - found themselves working the fields in ever-colder seasons.

1346

The Black Death is brewing in the heart of the Golden Horde, the north-western chunk of the disintegrated Mongolian Empire, which stretches from the Black Sea deep into modern Kazakhstan and Russia. Struck down as they lay siege to Caffa, the invaders launched the diseased bodies of their dead over the walls.

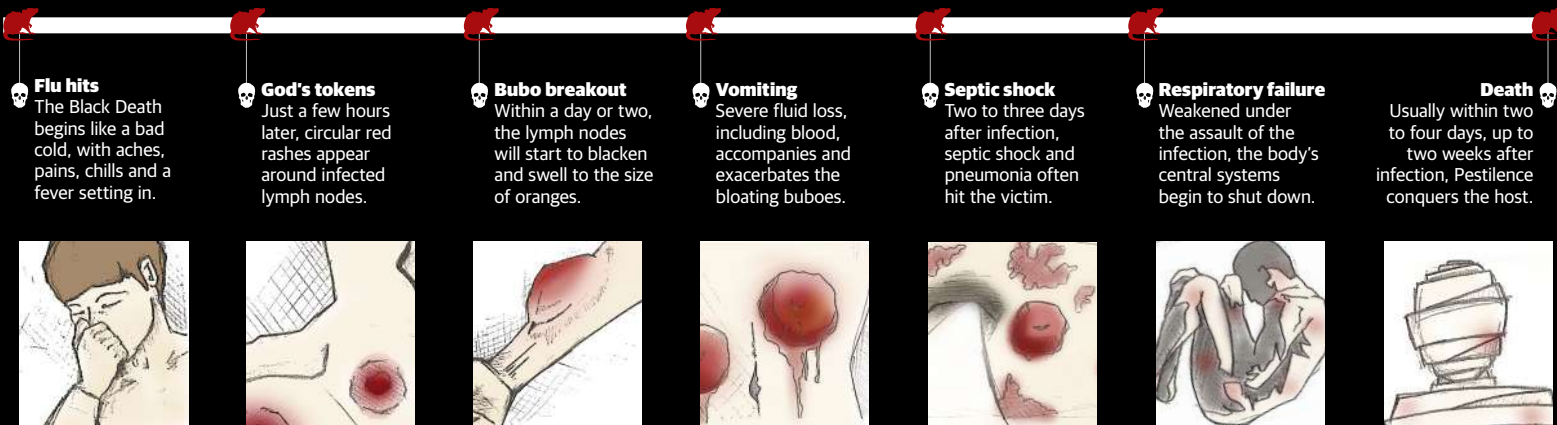
1349

Believed to be poisoning wells, Jews are driven out of every country as the Black Death consumes central Europe, now reaching from the coast of Scandinavia to Morocco. Poland provides a home to the stricken Jewish population, while in London the death rate is now 300 souls each day.

1347

Spreading along the sea lanes and coastal trade routes of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, plague sends ships thronging with bacteria into Constantinople, Crete, Sicily, Sardinia and south France. People blame cursed ships and the foul air they bring, but fail to spot the rats.

When Pestilence strikes...





A French painting of plague sufferers being tended to outside a temple

“With the death rate increasing and widows gobbling up inheritances, young lords were as out of pocket as the poor”

class, as serf-less landowners were forced to rent their estates to the surviving farmers, whose labour was now very much in demand against crippling inflation and who became independent for the first time. This freed up capital and made it more economically mobile, possibly leading to the birth of a kind of proto-capitalism, but it also led to the English ‘lost villages’.

As well as being depopulated through disease, the estates of the rich also succumbed to the fat dowers of widows who were entitled, for life, to a third of their dead spouse's income. With the death rate increasing and ageing widows gobbling up inheritances, young lords were as out of pocket as the poor and stood no better chance against Pestilence. While the chronic overpopulation in England before the Black Death meant that there was no initial effect on the labour market, by the next generation - the 1370s - there was a critical shortage. This led to the British government passing increasingly stringent regulations aimed at holding down rising wages, and ultimately to

the Peasants’ Revolt of 1381. The same was true elsewhere in Europe, with the effects of the Black Death also leading to the Jacquerie in France (1358) and the Revolt of the Ciompi in Italy (1378).

Despite the reassurance that the clergy provided, religion was powerless against the Black Death. Churchmen, who were often the closest thing to a doctor, were forbidden to dissect the bodies of God and so could not perform autopsies to learn the exact causes of death. Priests afraid of the plague refused to administer last rites, and urged people to confess to each other. Funeral rites were similarly abandoned, with corpses stacked several layers deep with a smattering of earth between each row, and entrepreneurial peasants began to gather and bury the dead for a fee.

Eventually, the clergy refused bodies entry into cities and, since death had become such a constant companion, ordained that no funeral bells were to ring. In 1348, however, a much greater religious threat abounded. The Brotherhood of Flagellants rose up in Germany and led 1,000-strong marches

through the country for 33 and a half days at a time (to mark the Saviour's years on Earth), brutally whipping themselves with iron-studded belts of leather to display their penance to God and earn protection from his wrath. They had something of a rockstar status and many people reached out to catch the sacred drops of blood that splattered from their holy wounds.

By 1349 the movement had petered out - falling prey to a bandwagon effect that led to too many misfits and vagabonds exploiting the Flagellants’ notoriety - but the effect it had on public sentiment was grave. The reinforcement of extreme Christian ideology in the face of the apocalypse inflamed anti-Semitism across Europe and the Jews were persecuted like never before.

Associated as they were with the mystical Kabbalah (and black magic), the 2.5 million Jews living in Europe at the time were prime suspects for witchcraft and nefarious deeds. Having been strong international merchants in 1000, they were in a period of decline that would ultimately lead to their replacement in economic terms by Italian merchants by 1500. Divided and wandering across Europe, they were accused of brewing poisons from basilisk skin, spiders, lizards and frogs - even Christian hearts and the wafer of Christ - and then infecting wells with disease.

False confessions under torture, such as that of Agimet the Jew during the plague's peak in 1348, certainly didn't help matters, and on Valentine's Day of 1349 in Strasbourg 2,000 Jews were burned in a cemetery. The crime was repeated in other cities across Germany and Switzerland, prompting a mass Jewish migration across Europe.

It was to Poland that they fled, as King Casimir was in love with a Jewish woman and so opened the borders of his country to his lover's kinsmen, where they would remain until the Holocaust. Yet while the Jews were fleeing death and destruction at the hands of humans, the monster itself was winding down. Pestilence reached Sweden in 1350 and, by the time it got to Russia, the plague had all but passed in France and England.

Historians have never reached complete agreement on what exactly stopped the disease, though quarantines, slightly better hygiene and the reduced number of people travelling back and forth through Europe - as a result of mass depopulation and a growing fear of infective trade routes - are all thought to have played a role. The plague had claimed an estimated 40-50 per cent of the European population - that's around 20

"The plague had claimed an estimated 40-50 percent of the European population - that's around 20 million people"

million people. By way of comparison, the Spanish Flu that followed the end of WWI in 1918 - raging across a far more populous Europe - claimed 50 million lives. Never before or since has such a potent infection wracked the continent.

There is a nursery rhyme still sung today that is believed by some to bear the terrible mark of the plague, an unconscious testament to the deep psychological impact it had upon the survivors: 'Ring around the roses; a pocketful of posies; ashes, ashes; we all fall down!'. In the early stages of the plague, the afflicted were known to develop rosy red rashes on the skin in the shape of a ring, and 'posies' - nosegays of dried flowers, or small pouches of sweet-smelling herbs - were often carried to ward off the disease.

Unaware of the true nature of the monster, many believed the Black Death was a miasmatic illness, caused by noxious, pestilential fumes in

the air. As such, posies were carried and incense burned in homes, people forwent bathing (as it opened the pores) and even splashed themselves in urine to bolster their natural protection against external fumes and vapours. It is thought that the first two lines of the rhyme refer to this.

As for the closing lines, historians believe that the Great Fire of London (1666) - which wiped out many rodents - was the only thing that saved England from succumbing entirely. It took Europe 150 years to fully recover, and those who survived believed they had witnessed the apocalypse.

With war, death and famine rampant in the century following the Black Death, it was as if the four horsemen themselves had ridden out in force to bring Europe to its knees. To a superstitious, God-fearing populace, it was a hell on Earth that they were utterly powerless to defend themselves against, and which would never be forgotten.



Funerals for plague victims would often be performed at night to limit contact with other people



◆

DEFINING MOMENT

VOYAGES OF COLUMBUS, 1492-1502

Over the course of four voyages, Christopher Columbus 'discovered' the New World, paving the way for later colonisation of the Americas.

“He secured the patronage of the Spanish monarchs Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile who agreed to fund his plans to explore the New World”



COLUMBUS

EXPLORER • ICON • MURDERER

Christopher Columbus was instrumental in defining the New World, but did he rule his new-found lands with a brutal and bloody iron fist?



The son of middle-class Genoan wool weavers, Christopher Columbus is not your usual child. Driven and incessantly inquisitive, the young boy is fascinated with the maps and charts the traders and seafarers bring to his coastal home in Italy. Something about those empty spaces on the intricately marked canvas calls to him, a fantastical need to fill those gaps and claim the glory such discoveries would surely bring. The unknown doesn't unsettle him, like it does many people of the time - in fact, it does the opposite: it captivates him. Seeing a rare tenacity in his eldest son, his father spends what money a wool weaver can spare and secures a place for Columbus at the University of Pavia. There he studies grammar, geography, geometry, astronomy, navigation and Latin - but for all his studies, the young Genoan finds his mind drifting to those blank voids on the map. This hunger would define his life forever.

In 1470, Columbus gains an apprenticeship working as a business agent for three influential Genoan families. His learned background and

tenacity in the face of adversity makes him a ferocious businessman and he's soon captaining ships that carve the ocean like blades. His work takes him far and wide across the civilised world: Lisbon, Bristol, Galway, West Africa and even settlements in Iceland become common ports of call. While deeply pious, Columbus steadily builds a reputation for ruthless determination. But for all his years of trade and commerce in these establishment lands, Columbus would always find his mind drifting to those incomplete maps he pored over as a child. The only thing standing between him and those fabled lands of untold riches was money. It was time to find a patron - an incredibly wealthy patron.

For many years, Europe held a distant yet lucrative trade relationship with the East. While under the rule of the once-rampant Mongol Empire, European traders travelled a relatively safe route of passage to China known as the Silk Road, but now that Constantinople had fallen to the Turks, the route was rife with piracy. The East was now too dangerous a path to take, even for the most

hardened of captains. Columbus was searching for a new route to India and the riches of Asia and to achieve this his plan was simple: sail west across the Ocean Sea (the 15th and 16th-century name for the Atlantic Ocean).

Sailing west wasn't just a case of turning your ships about and sailing away from the Orient, though. Since a portion of the map remained undefined on Western charts, the view of scholars, geographers and seafarers was a skewed one. Theories that the Earth was a flat disc persisted among some, but it was more the misinterpretations and speculation involving the distances between Europe and Asia, as well as the actual size of the mysterious continents and islands that were rumoured to lie beyond the storm-ridden oceans. Even Columbus' own theories were wildly inaccurate, but his intensity and sheer persistence made him stand out from his peers. He eventually secured the patronage of the Spanish monarchs Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile, who agree to fund his plans to explore the New World and claim it the name of a unified, Catholic Spain.

KEY

FIRST VOYAGE 1492-1493
SECOND VOYAGE 1493-1496
THIRD VOYAGE 1498-1500
FOURTH VOYAGE 1502-1504

2. DISCOVERING THE AMERICAS

12 OCTOBER 1492

After a five-week journey across the Atlantic, land was sighted. Aiming to land in Japan, Columbus had stumbled upon the Bahamas. He named the island San Salvador. Columbus' ships struggled to make anchor off the coast, so many of the natives dove into the water to assist them - they would be rewarded by enslavement.

6. EXPLORING SOUTH AMERICA

30 JULY 1502

Despite being stripped of his titles and his health failing, Columbus was still determined to explore the coasts of northern South America. After surviving a tropical hurricane, he and his crew landed in Honduras. He spent two months exploring the region, along with Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

THE VOYAGES OF COLUMBUS

Breaking down his four expeditions that changed the world

1. THE VOYAGES BEGIN

3 AUGUST 1492

After soliciting considerable patronage from the Spanish monarchs, Columbus sets off with an initial fleet of six ships from Palos de la Frontera, a principality in the Spanish province of Huelva. Columbus and his fleet arrive at the Castille-controlled Canary Islands, the starting point on his planned journey to Asia.

5. SAILING THE ORINOCO

4-12 AUGUST 1498

While many of Columbus' personal calculations and assumptions turned out to be considerably wide of the mark, his study of the Gulf of Paria (between Trinidad and Venezuela) and the Orinoco River correctly led him to the conclusion that a considerable landmass was within reach. Upon reaching the coast, he marked that this bountiful land could well be the site of the biblical Garden of Eden.

3. ARRIVING IN HISPANIOLA

5 DECEMBER 1492

After a brief expedition into Cuba, Columbus arrived at Hispaniola. Due to bad weather, the Santa Maria ran aground on 25 December, but Columbus used the wreck as cannon-target practice. Columbus founded the settlement of La Navidad during this time, before continuing along the northern coast of Hispaniola in search of further discoveries.

4. PUNISHING THE NATIVES

22 NOVEMBER 1493

During his second voyage, Columbus paid a visit to his recent settlement of La Navidad. What he found was burning ruins, savaged by the native Taino people. In retaliation he demanded a tribute be made to him, or he'd cut the hands off every member of the tribe. He later sailed north and founded another settlement, La Isabela, but it failed to take root and fell apart in his absence.

Caribbean Sea

South America

On the morning of 3 August 1492, with a contingent of three ships and two smaller caravels, Columbus sets sail from Palos de la Frontera. The swells are relatively calm and the ships carve a path toward the Canary Islands in a few days, before restocking supplies and setting sail for Japan. The three ships sail deeper into the unknown. Violent winds and angry swells buffet them across the waves, their intended course ripped apart by tropical storms these westbound seafarers have little experience with. By 12 October, morale on the ships is at a dangerously low - men have drowned in storms, masts have been broken by vicious gales and even a small mutiny breaks out. Columbus, sat within the confines of his cabin, stares at the maps before him. He knows their course has been broken, but it's the time at sea that troubles him the most. They should have set foot on new lands long before now. Time is running out.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, one of sailors above screams at the top of his voice: "Land! Land ahoy!" Columbus rushes from his desk, candles, papers and wine flying in his wake. The spray of the swaying oceans stings him in the face after so many hours in a stuffy cabin, but he's soon scrambling onto the poop deck, the prospect of land driving him forward. He squints and takes his first glimpse of a brand new world. Lush greenery and a pale-coloured beach can be seen in the distance, birds of a peculiar colour circling

above the canopy. It's then that he sees them: dark-skinned men and women, most of them barely dressed at all, spears and bows clutched in their hands.

A few hours later, all three ships are anchored at a safe distance and the three crews are now safely on land. Columbus is standing upon Watling Island (which would later form part of the Bahamas). He names it San Salvador and claims it for the glory of Spain. Over the next few days, Columbus meets with the three main tribes of the island - the Taino, the Arawak and the Lucayan - and begins building a relationship that tells him a great deal about this new Eden. Only one other tribe, based on a distant island, is aggressive toward them, occasionally landing raiding parties to take slaves. In one of his journal entries, Columbus remarks: "I could conquer the whole of them with 50 men, and govern them as I please." Columbus views them less as people and more as another acquisition with which he can return to Spain. While this attitude may seem callous, it is a common one that will eventually drive and maintain the slave trade for hundreds of years to come. After a week or more on San Salvador, he begins searching the surrounding waters, eventually arriving on the northern coast of Cuba, before landing on the coast of Hispaniola on 5 December 1492.

Hispaniola is a much larger land mass than the first island he embarked on, and with a calm

A highly stylised depiction of Columbus' first landing in America in 1492



sea behind him and stories of a realm rich with gold and other treasures, Columbus is confident he's found the beginning of his own legacy. In a matter of weeks he establishes a settlement on the island, La Navidad, and on 25 December orders a specially chosen crew of his most trusted seafarers to take the Santa Maria and sail north and conduct more reconnaissance.

Unfortunately, Columbus is drunk at the time he gives the orders, as is the crew he appoints. In a matter of a few hours, half the crew fall asleep and the boat crashes into the rocks.

On 13 January 1493, Columbus meets with the carique (the head chieftain of the Taino peoples) of Hispaniola, Guacanagari, who agrees to the explorer's request to leave 39 of his crew behind to populate the settlement. He leaves on the last exploratory part of his first voyage and arrives some days later on the Samana Peninsula, where he encounters the far less friendly Ciguayos tribe. The carique on the island refuses to grant Columbus leave to establish a settlement; battle soon ensues and two of the tribe's people are killed. As punishment, Columbus captures 30 of their people and sets sail for Spain - only seven of the captives survive the long trip back to Europe.

"La Navidad has been razed to the ground, burned to a cinder by the Taino people that had been so accommodating the year before"

Upon returning to the court of the Spanish monarchs, Columbus becomes the talk of Europe with his journals, maps, fruits, spices, gold and native captives. His irrefutable proof of a new land between Europe and Asia now laid before them, Isabella and Ferdinand happily award Columbus the titles previously agreed, and he becomes the Admiral of the Open Sea and viceroy and governor of all the lands he discovers. In order to ensure the expansion of Hispaniola, Columbus sends his brother Bartolomeo along with a consignment of sailors, soldiers and tradesmen soon after.

On 24 September, Columbus sets out on his second major voyage. It's an expedition that takes a far more southerly route, taking in the other islands in the Bahamas, as well as a stopover in Jamaica. On 22 November, Columbus and his fleet of 17 ships turn their bows toward Hispaniola, the Genoan governor ready to see the plans he gave his brother back in Cadiz come to life. What he finds is a burning ruin. La Navidad has been razed, burned to a cinder by the Taino people that had been so accommodating the year before. He had brought civility to their darkened corner of the Earth. He had given them stability. He had given them the power of Christ.

LIFE ON THE WAVES

What was the reality of sailing the oceans in the 15th century?



Ship's surgeon

Life aboard a 150-tonne ship was fraught with dangers. Cannons could misfire, limbs could be broken by broken masts and flailing rigging, as well as the various diseases and ailments that could affect the crew. At the heart of all this was the ship's surgeon, whose role was to ensure a crew remained fit enough to fulfil their duties, however gruesome the treatment.



Boatswain

The boatswain was one of the most important members of a ship, and with that responsibility came its fair share of danger. A boatswain, usually the third or fourth mate, was in charge of maintaining the ship's deck and ensuring the sails and rigging remained in the best condition. In moments of emergency, such as a raging fire (a common occurrence due to power kegs overheating in hot, dry temperatures) and storms, a boatswain would be first on the scene.

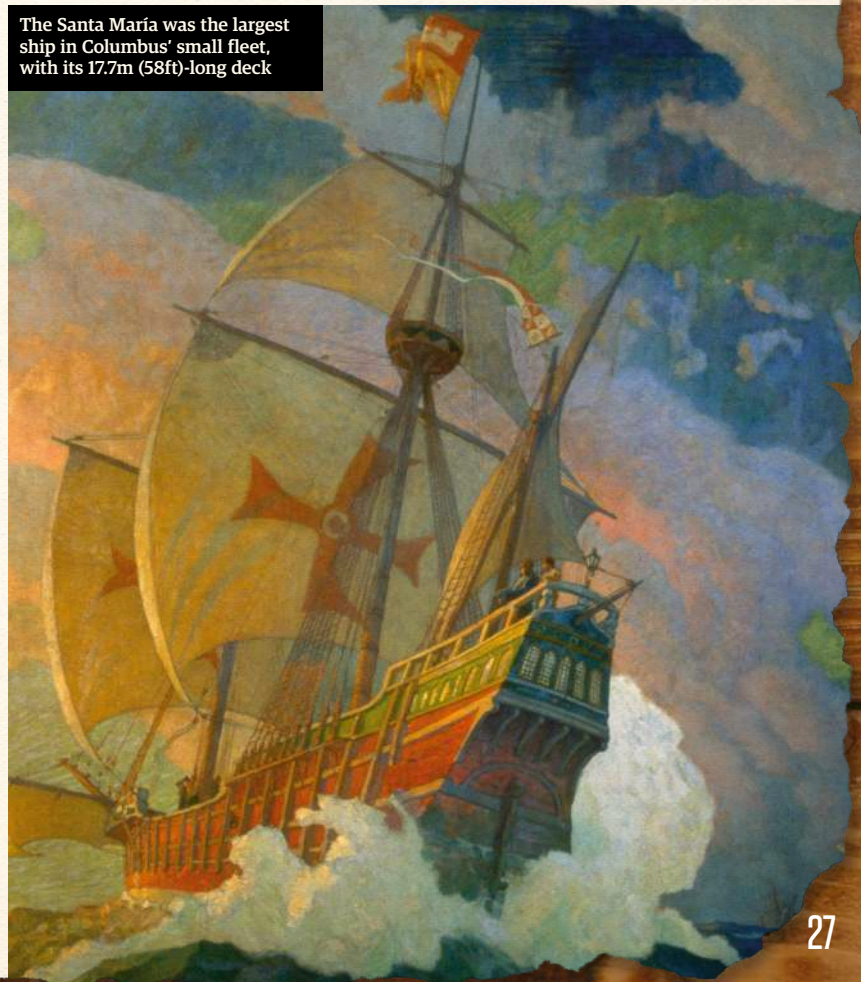


Ordinary seaman

For all the master gunners and quartermasters, there was always need for seamen willing to do the hard graft that life at sea demanded. Known rather less affectionately to their fellow crew as 'swabbers', ordinary seamen found themselves doing the Santa Maria's worst jobs. Pumping and removing bilge (the stagnant water that collects in the lowest compartment of a ship), untangling knotted rigging and swabbing the decks clean were just some of their chores.



The Santa María was the largest ship in Columbus' small fleet, with its 17.7m (58ft)-long deck



CUTTHROAT COLUMBUS

Three of the legendary explorer's most brutal actions

Public humiliation

Columbus and his like-minded brothers, Bartolomeo and Diego, were known for their psychological as well as physical torture. "Columbus' government was characterised by a form of tyranny", says Spanish historian Consuelo Varela. One such case involved a woman who dared to suggest Columbus was of lowly birth. Columbus' brother Bartolomeo had her stripped naked and paraded through the colony on the back of a mule. "Bartolomeo ordered that her tongue be cut out", adds Ms Varela. "Christopher congratulated him for defending the family."



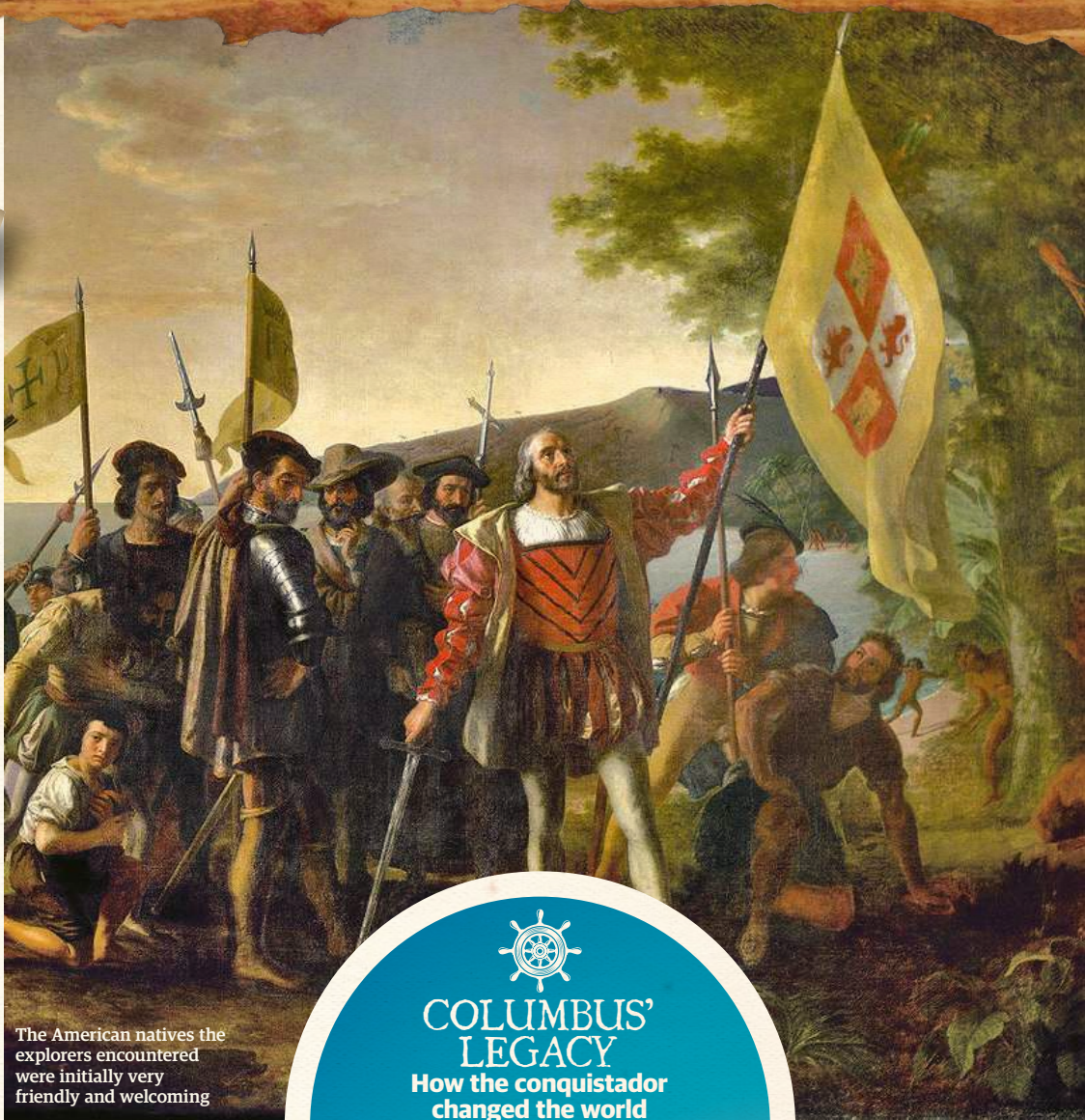
Worked into the ground

When Columbus arrived in the Bahamas in 1492, he discovered a number of peaceful native peoples, most notably the Taino tribe. Columbus himself remarked on how friendly these dark-skinned natives were - they carried few weapons either, since their society bred few if any criminals. He also discovered rich deposits of gold, so he claimed the land in the name of the Spanish Crown and enslaved that very tribe. Within two years, 125,000 - half the population - had died from working in Columbus' mines.



Slavery and mutilation

Columbus was a troubled man, paranoid and deeply suspicious, especially in his later years. According to one report, a man caught stealing corn had his ears and nose cut off at Columbus' request, before being sold into slavery. Enforced servitude became a common course of action for Columbus and his law-enforcing brothers. Columbus himself personally oversaw a sickening trade in sexual slavery, selling young Indian girls and women into a life of brutal prostitution.



The American natives the explorers encountered were initially very friendly and welcoming



COLUMBUS' LEGACY

How the conquistador changed the world

Columbus wasn't the first European to reach North America, but his mark on the world is clear. To quote historian Martin Dugard: "Columbus' claim to fame isn't that he got there first - it's that he stayed."

Unlike the small settlements the Vikings created 500 years earlier, Columbus claimed the lands he found in the name of Spain and created significant communities that continued to expand from the coast.





Columbus has a national day in America but the explorer was guilty of some brutal crimes

They had repaid him with a ruined settlement and countless butchered Spaniards.

In Columbus' absence, but very much following his direct orders, Hispaniola had quickly become a far-different place than the one they arrived at. The abundant and peaceful tribes of the island were happy to share the locations of the gold-rich valleys with their foreign guests, but they were less prepared for what came next.

Bartolomeo Columbus forced thousands of the natives into slavery, making them dig mines into the mountains, scouring it for precious metals. Hundreds of Europeans brought with them a great number of Western diseases, and such viruses spread through the unprepared natives like wildfire. Such conditions had led the Taino people to lead a rebellion against the foreign invaders, but their actions only galvanised Columbus' own desire for order and retribution.

With his brothers at his side and his Spanish patrons none the wiser, Columbus carved untold riches from the heart of the land. Such riches kept the Spanish monarchs happy, but rumours of brutality would soon spill out across the waves, with reports that Columbus' governorship had sent him mad with power. While reports of his brutality were true, they were seized upon with gusto by the many enemies he had made at the Spanish court, who were jealous of the riches he was making. It is likely his Spanish patrons did indeed have some idea to the lengths Columbus was willing to go to seek his fortune in the New World. However brutal he might have been, his efforts were still filling the coffers of the Spanish crown at a time where war had drunk them dry.

Columbus would conduct a third voyage before Ferdinand and Isabella were forced to send an emissary to investigate the claims that hung thickly over the Spanish court. After receiving the report, they stripped Columbus of his titles and sent the administrator Francisco de Bobadilla to further investigate and govern in his stead. When Bobadilla arrived in August 1500, the land he found was certainly a startling one. Columbus' seven-

year rule of the island had enslaved a majority of the island's native inhabitants, which had reduced a population of a few million free people to around 60,000 by 1500. He hears reports of Columbus selling young girls into sexual slavery and complaints that Columbus and his brothers would mutilate and humiliate anyone who stood in their way. The man who now has his own national holiday in the United States was

eventually sent back to Spain in disgrace, but the Spanish monarchs did not imprison or hang him; stripping him of their patronage and his titles had nearly broken an already sick and ailing man.

Columbus' legacy is defined by his passion for discovery, but some modern accounts are perhaps quick to forget he was a conquistador by name and by nature. Driven by a desire to chart and define the New World, Columbus had not only discovered new lands, he had helped establish a Western footing that would continue to expand for hundreds of years. In his later years he wrote: "By prevailing over all obstacles and distractions, one may unfailingly arrive at his chosen goal or destination." While his actions will always have a shadow over them, his life-long desire to banish the unknown will ensure his name lives on forever.

"Columbus' seven-year rule had enslaved a majority of the island's native inhabitants, which had reduced a population of a few million to around 60,000 by 1500"

THE VOYAGES IN NUMBERS

The shocking stats behind Columbus' conquistador career

3,700KM

The distance between the Canary Islands and Japan, according to Columbus' calculations



17 The number of ships, made up mostly of durable, long-distance-ready carrack-style vessels, Columbus used in his second voyage in 1493

19,600KM

The actual distance between the Canary Islands and Japan. Despite the advice of cartographers and geographers, Columbus would not be swayed on his own estimates



Number of combined years Columbus spent exploring, with his four main voyages for the mighty Spanish Crown

1,500

The total number of colonists (mainly Spanish, Portuguese and Italian) that Columbus drafted for his first-ever voyage across the Atlantic Ocean

29 During his third voyage in 1502, Columbus lost 29 of the 30 ships he set sail with, after getting caught in a violent storm off the coast of Santo Domingo

10 EXPLORERS WHO HELPED DISCOVER THE AMERICAS

John Cabot

ITALIAN 1450-1499

Exploring the New World in the name of the Tudors



Explored: Newfoundland
Also: Nova Scotia (Canada);
Maine (United States)

John Cabot is believed by many historians to be the first European to set foot in North America since

the Vikings established Vinland in the 11th century. Under the patronage of King Henry VII of England, Cabot touched down in Newfoundland, Maine and Nova Scotia. Unfortunately, Cabot was neither the sailor nor the captain that Columbus was and his voyages have largely been forgotten.



William Clark

AMERICAN 1770-1838

The man who co-charted and co-claimed the Pacific Northwest



Explored: Oregon
Also: Kansas City,
Missouri, Nebraska, North
Dakota

Politician. Soldier. Governor.

Explorer. William Clark remains one of the most influential men to ever chart his own country. At the beginning of the 19th century, North America was divided between the United States, Spain and France. Following the purchase of Louisiana from the French in 1803, Clark, alongside explorer Merriweather Lewis, led a two-year expedition that mapped a practical route through the wilds of the northern states.

*“Elizabeth granted
Raleigh a patent to explore
the New World”*



Henry Hudson

ENGLISH 1560s-UNKNOWN

A China-bound seafarer who stumbled upon New York



Explored: New York (United States)

Also: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia (Canada);

While the particulars of Hudson's personal life remain speculative,

his actions as an explorer helped change European understanding of the New World's geographical layout. While attempting to create a direct route to Cathay (the medieval name for China), Hudson accidentally discovered what would become New York. In fact, Hudson's mapping of the region was so integral that a river was renamed in his honour.



Leifur Eiriksson

ICELANDIC CA 970 - CA 1020

500 years before Columbus, a Viking discovered the New World



Explored: Vinland (modern-day Newfoundland)

Viking explorer Leifur Eiriksson's travels across the oceans from Scandinavia helped establish a stronghold in Vinland (the Old

Norse name for North America). While Icelandic records like the *Saga Of The Greenlanders* point out Leifur wasn't the first Norseman to place a leathered sole on American soil, he galvanised Viking activity in Vinland. Although he died almost a thousand years ago, the fabled Norse explorer left a mark on Scandinavia and North America that still remains. Visitors to St Paul, Minnesota, will see a bronze statue of Leifur standing proudly near the Minnesota State Capitol, with his image symbolising the migration of Nordic people to America.

THE WORST EXPEDITIONS REVEALED

Some voyages into the unknown are famous for all the wrong reasons...



600 Spaniards die in the Gulf of Mexico

In 1527, the Spanish Crown sent a fleet to conquer and colonise Florida and the Gold Coast. A mutiny reduced the fleet at the Dominican Republic, while a hurricane drowned hundreds of Spanish sailors. The remaining survivors washed up on the coast of Florida, but many died at the hands of native tribesmen. Of the 600-strong crew, only four returned to Spain in 1528.



Magellan falls foul of the elements

Famous for almost circumventing the globe in the 16th century, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan miscalculated the size of the Pacific Ocean on a voyage to Asia. Most of his 270-strong crew died of thirst and hunger long before they made landfall on Guam. Those who didn't perish died at the hands of Filipino natives, including Magellan himself.



A fatal race to the South Pole

In 1911, a group of explorers led by Captain Robert Scott attempted to be the first people to reach the South Pole, but they were beaten in their quest by a Norwegian team led by Roald Amundsen. These five men - Scott, Wilson, Oates, Bowers and Evans - paid the highest price and died. Scott has since been blamed for poor planning but bad luck also played its part as well.



Robert Gray

AMERICAN 1755-1806

A captain who lost an eye, but gained an extraordinary legacy



Explored: California (United States)
Also: British Columbia (Canada); Washington, Oregon.

A merchant sea captain, Gray pioneered the maritime fur trade on the Northern Pacific coast of his home nation, discovering more regions as he pushed trade further up and down that side of the country. He's most famously credited with the first American circumnavigation of the globe, as well as the travelling on and naming of the Columbia River in 1792. To this day, many geographic features in Washington and Oregon bear his name to mark his historical legacy.

James Cook

BRITISH 7 NOV 1728 - 14 FEB 1779

A military man turned explorer who met his end in the new worlds he discovered



Explored: Hawaii
Also: Saint Lawrence River (Canada/United States),

Much like Columbus and Marco Polo, captain James Cook's name is synonymous with early

exploration. He began his career as a teenager when he joined the Merchant Navy, seeing action in many naval clashes of the Seven Years War. Cook then used his experiencing charting the Saint Lawrence River during the Siege of Quebec to gain the command of three expeditions around the world. Cook's travels also brought him to the island of Hawaii, where his expert cartography skills enabled him to chart the islands with a detail unrivalled by his peers. He died during a clash with native Hawaiians during this third major voyage in 1779.



Sir Walter Raleigh

ENGLISH 1554-1618

Poet, soldier, courtier, spy, explorer



Explored: North Carolina, South Carolina
Also: Georgia, Florida (United States)

Perhaps one of the most famous explorers save Columbus himself,

Sir Walter Raleigh gained favour in the court of Elizabeth I, with his many fabled bounties of treasure and exotic items typifying the Golden Age of the monarch's reign. Following years of war with France and Spain, English merchants were now pushing farther afield into Asia, Africa and the New World. As well as being famous for his pursuit of El Dorado (the City of Gold), Raleigh was instrumental in the English colonisation of North America. In the late-1580s, Elizabeth granted Raleigh a royal patent to explore the New World in the name of the English Crown.



Claude-Jean Allouez

FRENCH 1622-1689

A passionate zealot who explored the New World



Explored: Wisconsin
Also: Michigan, Indiana (United States)

Born in France, Allouez was a Jesuit missionary who travelled to Canada in order to help solidify

a series of missions in the region. As part of his religious journey, Allouez regularly came into contact with members of native tribes, which eventually led him south into the future United States. His initial work setting up a number of missions in Wisconsin also coincided with his travels down the Mississippi River. His extensive and detailed notes of the areas he explored helped the French crown to later claim the Great Lakes for themselves.



Hernando de Soto

SPANISH, 1497-1542

This conquistador plundered the South for riches



Explored: Florida
Also: Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas

(United States)

Much like English seafarer Henry Hudson, the Spanish conquistador Hernando de Soto initially stumbled upon North America while sailing for China. He had set voyage for the East in search of treasure for the financially precarious Spanish Crown, but instead found a land rich with gold and silver deposits, lush and untamed. While he is most famous for having the first documented crossing of the Mississippi River by a foreigner, his expeditions took him to Oklahoma, Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

David Thompson

BRITISH-CANADIAN 1770-1857

The "greatest land geographer that ever lived"



Explored: Nevada
Also: British Columbia, Alberta (Canada); Oregon, Montana, Wyoming,

The Westminster-born Thompson headed south from Canada

into the wilderness of North America and began uncovering its secrets. Over a career that lasted most of his life, Thompson managed to map a staggering 3.9 million square kilometres (1.5 million square miles) of topography across the Frontier. He started his project around 1793 with his expeditions into the Rocky Mountains, before creating a detailed map of trading posts across the region, including Montana and Idaho. Among other things, the explorer has a highway named after him in Canada.





◆

DEFINING MOMENT

INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST
US PRESIDENT, 30 APRIL 1789

George Washington is inaugurated as the first President of the United States, now seen as one of the most powerful positions in the world.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

American, 1732-1799

Brief Bio

Hailed by many as the greatest US president of all time, George Washington served as commander in chief of the US Continental Army during the American Revolution. He then went on to become the first US president, serving from 1789 to 1797. Today Washington remains an icon of liberty and freedom, and is one of the most recognisable faces in the world.



In his final will
Washington freed all his slaves

The First President WASHINGTON

★ Today George Washington is hailed as the ★
★ father of the USA, but his journey to ★
★ legendary hero was a perilous ★
★ and difficult one ★

Long Island was supposed to be a success. The enemy was stronger and greater in number but the rebels had got there first. The commander had prepared everything for his foe's arrival in New York, strengthening his batteries and placing his generals perfectly. But the British had broken through. First Sullivan fell, then Stirling, and the commander could only watch as the lives of his brave men were brutally wiped away. Knowing all was lost he ordered his men to retreat before the carnage could reach them. As relentless rain pelted down he used the cover of darkness to

help conceal his soldiers as they climbed into every available boat he could get his hands on. He waited until the last man was on board before he boarded himself. As the boat drew away the commander looked back through the thick fog that had descended over the bay. The mist had concealed them from the British, his men were safe, but Brooklyn had been lost.

This is not the story of a failed general, forgotten by the history books, but instead that of the most glorified and worshipped president in US history - George Washington. Just as his men were hidden by the fog that grim morning

in Brooklyn, today Washington himself is cloaked and obscured by layers of myths and legends. He has become an almost messianic figure in the United States, a legend of justice and freedom, a brilliant commander who led his underdog army to the greatest victory in US history. But as with most legends, the stories are not always true. Far from being a brilliant military strategist, Washington actually lost more battles than he won. He was no Alexander or Caesar, but an entirely different kind of hero altogether - one who persevered in the face of devastating failure for his men and country.

Making History

3 reasons why Washington is considered the USA's greatest leader

1

Virtue

Washington twice gave up the chance of ultimate power. First at the end of the Revolutionary War when he surrendered his role as commander in chief, and again when he refused to rule as president for a third term. When George III was presented with the idea of Washington doing this, he said, "If he does that he will be the greatest man in the world."

2

Commitment to country

Washington did not become involved in the hostile arguments and squabbling of political debates, but instead acted as a peacekeeper between the groups. A true non-partisan, his primary aim was always the betterment of the country, rather than any personal gain.

3

Persistence

Washington was not the most gifted military leader; he suffered multiple losses and personal humiliations, but his determination to persevere in spite of repeated setbacks inspired his soldiers to do the same, which resulted in him creating one of the most celebrated underdog success stories in world history.



Born on 22 February 1732, George Washington was the son of a slave-owning tobacco planter. George received a mixed education from a variety of tutors, and plans for him to join the British Royal Navy were cut short when his mother objected. Fate instead led Washington to become a surveyor, and he travelled for two years surveying land in the Culpeper, Frederick and Augusta counties. This position began a lifelong interest in landholdings, and he purchased his first piece of land as soon as his sizable income filled his pockets. And when his older brother died in 1752, Washington inherited not only his father's vast lands, but also the position of major in the Virginia militia.

It would not be long until Washington's natural leadership and drive would send him straight into the heat of battle. At a staggering 188 centimetres (6'2") tall, the young man towered above his contemporaries, and Virginia's Lieutenant General Robert Dinwiddie saw fit to use his imposing but

inspiring nature to try to persuade the French to remove themselves from land claimed by Britain. When they refused, Washington returned with a small force and attacked the French post at Fort Duquesne, killing the commander and nine men and taking the others as prisoners, all in 15 minutes. The event had huge international implications, and Great Britain and France began to pump forces into North America - The French and Indian War had begun. In a matter of minutes the name Washington became synonymous with three things - bravery, daring and recklessness.

Washington was rewarded for his quick thinking by being appointed commander in chief and colonel of the Virginia Regiment, the first full-time American military unit. With command of a thousand soldiers, Washington was tasked with defending Virginia's frontier, and he demonstrated his resolve and forthright approach as his unit engaged in 20 battles over 12 months. But his reckless attitude and inexperience was demonstrated when his unit exchanged friendly fire with another British force, killing 14 men.

His time commanding an army had taught Washington many things - how to bring the best out of his men, the importance of stamina and bravery, as well as discipline and training. It had also given him valuable insight into the British military tactics, and his struggles in dealing with government officials convinced him that a national government was the only way forward. However, when Washington retired from service in 1758, as far as he was concerned his time on the battlefield was over.

In 1759 Washington married the intelligent and wealthy Martha Dandridge Custis and together with her two children they moved to the

plantation of Mount Vernon. Enjoying the newly inherited wealth from his marriage, Washington was now one of Virginia's wealthiest men and he concentrated on expanding and making the most out of his plantation. Little did he know that revolution was bubbling, and soon he would find himself back on the battlefield in what would become the most famous war in American history.

Washington wasn't the most likely of revolutionary leaders; although he opposed the controversial Stamp Act of 1765, during the early stirrings of revolution he was actually opposed to the colonies declaring independence. It wasn't until the passing of the Townshend acts of 1767 that he took an active role in the resistance. In an act of rebellion he encouraged the people of Virginia

to boycott English goods until the acts were repealed. However, when the Intolerable acts were passed in 1774, Washington decided that more forthright action needed to be taken.

Passionate and charismatic, Washington was an obvious choice to attend the First Continental Congress. Although the delegates appealed to the crown to revoke the intolerable acts, they didn't even make a

dink in the steely British armour, and a Second Continental Congress was called the following year.

A lot had changed in a year, and Washington too had undergone something of a transformation. The battles at Lexington and Concord had shown the colonies that they were capable of taking on the might of the British, and when Washington arrived in Pennsylvania for the state meeting dressed head to toe in military gear, it sent a strong message: he was prepared for war. So was Congress. It formed the Continental Army on 14 June 1775 and it needed a leader. Reluctant and somewhat modest,

"He was no Alexander or Caesar, but an entirely different kind of hero altogether"

The March To Revolution

Follow the path leading to the greatest war in American history



★ 1754-1763 ★

French and Indian War

The French and Indian War was part of a much longer conflict between Great Britain and France, known as the Seven Years War. The war was fought in the north of North America between the colonies of the two powers, ending with France losing its territory in North America. However, funding the war created a huge national debt in Britain and gave France a good reason to support American independence.



★ 1765 ★

Stamp Act

The resulting national debt of the Seven Years War in Britain had reached £130 million by 1764. Britain also needed a way to pay for its army in North America and decided the colonies should subsidise it. The Stamp Act forced citizens to pay taxes on documents and paper goods and was immediately unpopular as it was carried out without any consent. The outrage soon turned violent and the tax was never collected.



★ 1767-1770 ★

Townshend Acts

The Townshend Acts were a series of acts passed by the British Parliament upon the colonies in North America. These acts placed duties on vital, high-volume imported items such as glass, paints, paper and tea, among other things. The money raised was intended to pay to keep governors and judges loyal, and also to set a general precedent that the British had the right to tax the American colonies.

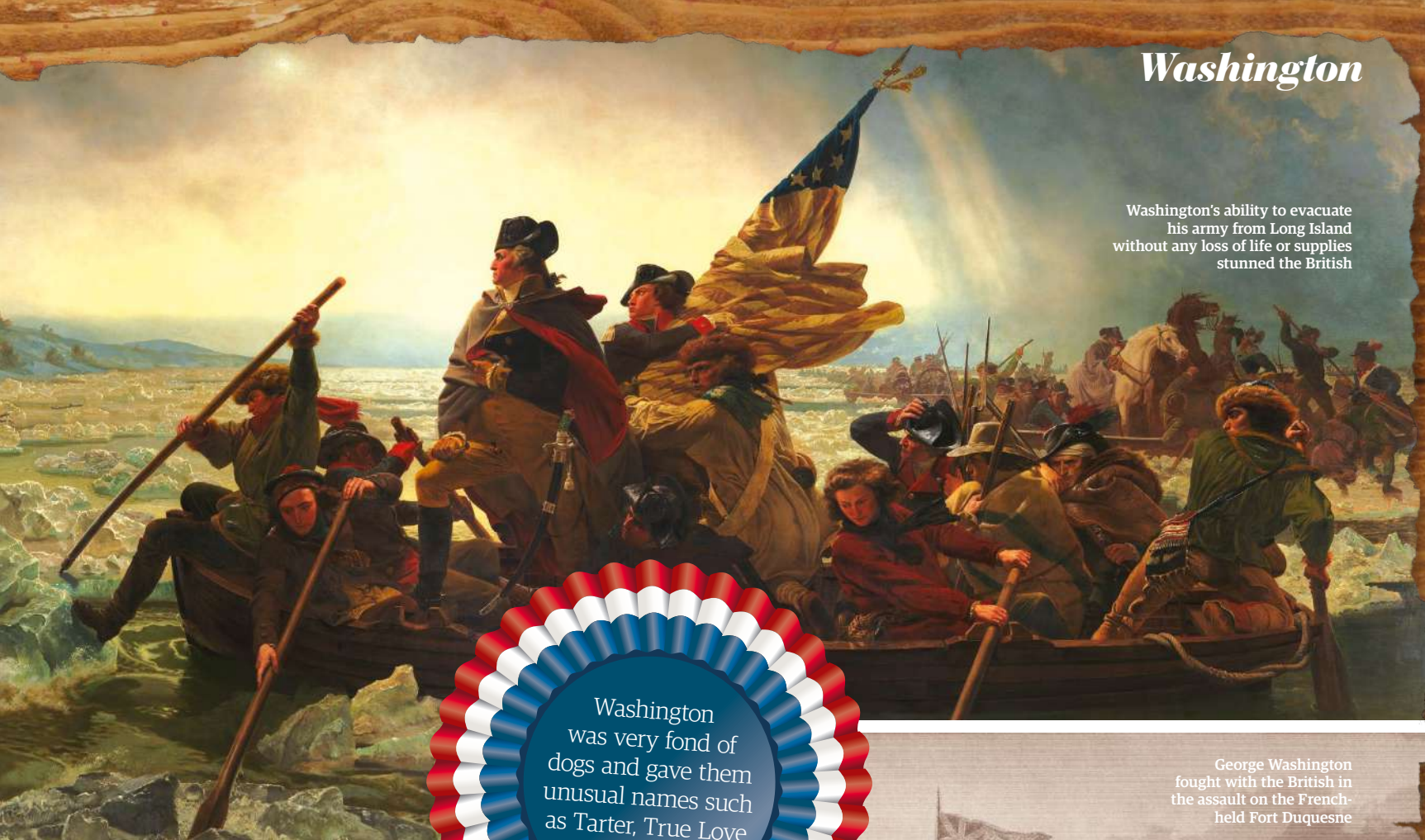


★ 1770 ★

Boston Massacre

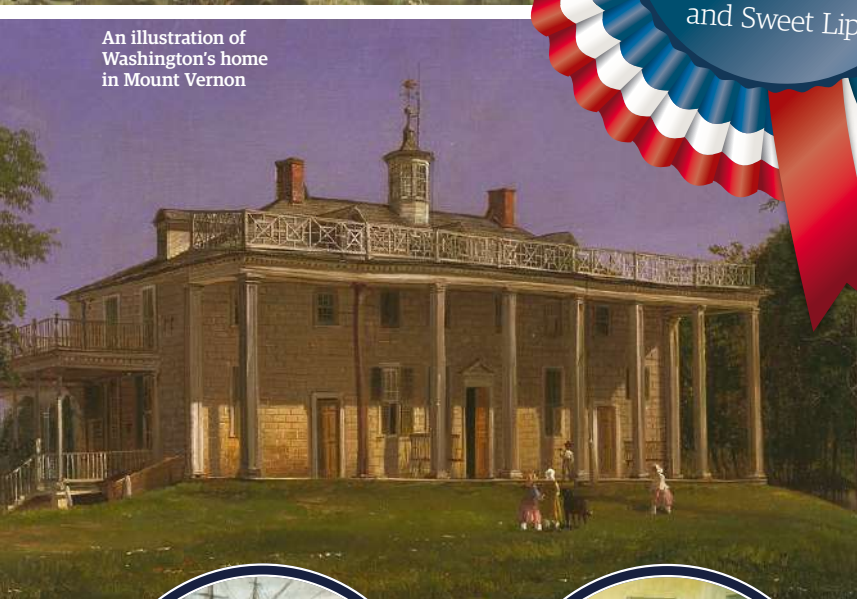
This incident occurred when a heckling crowd gathered around a British guard, who was quickly joined by eight more British soldiers. The soldiers fired at the crowd, killing three people and wounding multiple others. Two more later died of their wounds. The soldiers were arrested for manslaughter but were released without charge. This event helped to create an immensely anti-British sentiment in the colonies.

Washington's ability to evacuate his army from Long Island without any loss of life or supplies stunned the British

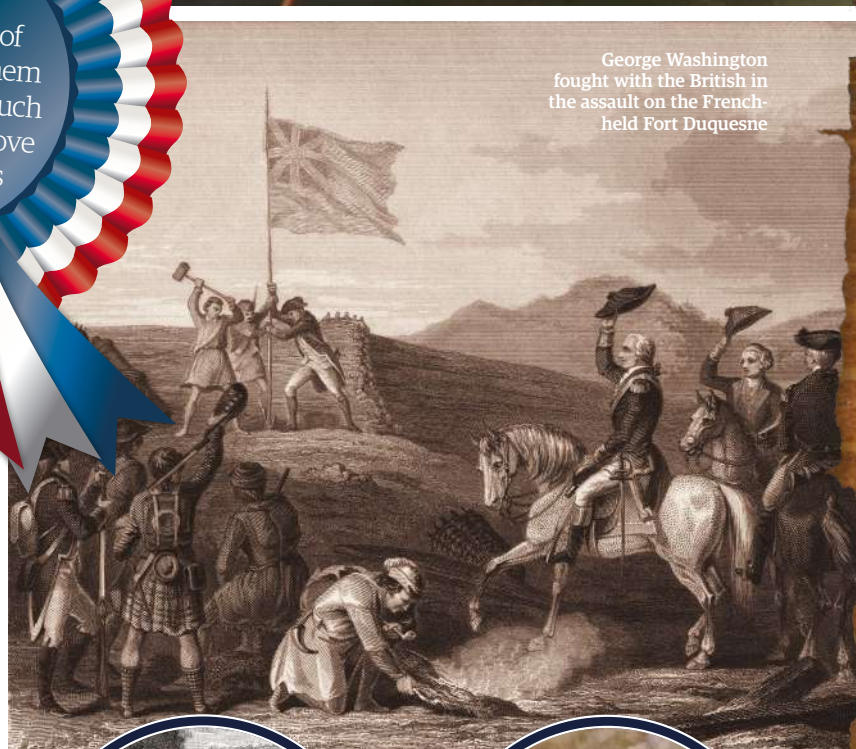


Washington was very fond of dogs and gave them unusual names such as Tarter, True Love and Sweet Lips

An illustration of Washington's home in Mount Vernon



George Washington fought with the British in the assault on the French-held Fort Duquesne



★ 1773 ★

Boston Tea Party

In an effort to force the colonies to accept the Townshend duty on Tea, Britain passed the Tea Act, allowing the East India Company to ship its tea to North America. In defiance, protestors boarded the ships and threw chests full of tea into Boston Harbour. Parliament responded harshly, by passing the Intolerable Acts, which took away the rights of the state of Massachusetts to govern itself.



★ 1774 ★

First Continental Congress

Delegates from 12 of the 13 British colonies in America met at Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia to discuss ways to halt the Intolerable Acts. They made plans to refuse to import British goods until their grievances were met. When these efforts proved unsuccessful, a Second Continental Congress was held the next year to prepare the country for the impending American Revolutionary War.



★ 1775 ★

The Battles of Lexington and Concord

When American intelligence learned that British troops planned to march on Concord, they were quick to assemble their forces and take up arms against them. However only 77 militiamen faced 700 British at Lexington and were quickly defeated. The British continued to Concord to search for arms, but they were forced back by 500 militiamen, winning the colonies their first war victory.



★ 1775 ★

Battle of Bunker Hill

Set during the Siege of Boston, this battle saw the British mount an attack against the colonial troops stationed in Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill. Although the British were victorious, the heavy losses suffered by the redcoats led it to be a hollow victory, and it proved the Americans could hold their own against their foes in battle. Shortly after the conflict, King George III officially declared the colonies to be in a state of rebellion.

Washington did not see himself as a leader capable of leading such a vitally important force, but for those around him there was no other choice. With proven military experience, a devoted patriot and a strong, commanding presence, Washington was appointed commander in chief of the force that would take on the mightiest nation on Earth.

It did not take very long for the new commander to prove just what he was worth. In early-March 1776, Washington turned the Siege of Boston around by placing artillery on Dorchester Heights, low hills with a good view of Boston and its harbour. The perfectly placed, powerful cannons forced the British to retreat from the city, and the American commander moved his army into New York City. Even the critical British papers couldn't deny the skills of the captivating and exciting new leader who seemed capable of repelling their great empire with ease.

Victory and gossip aside, in truth Washington was out of his depth. He had commanded men before, but only a force of a thousand soldiers - far from the tens of thousands at his disposal now. He had only fought in frontier warfare, far removed from the open-field battles he now faced. He had never commanded legions of cavalry or artillery - he was constantly learning on the job. Washington had to rely on his own intelligence and courage

to have any hope of snatching victory from his seasoned, experienced rivals.

This inexperience manifested itself in the crippling defeat the commander suffered during the Battle of Long Island. In an effort to seize New York, the British general William Howe unleashed a devastating campaign that Washington failed to subdue. So great was the British attack that Washington was forced to retreat his entire army across the East River under cover of darkness. Although this feat itself was remarkable, for the self-critical leader it was a swift and brutal reminder of his own inadequacies as a general, and he quickly realised this war would not be easily won.

But the British had a crippling weakness, too. They were simply too sure they were going to win. Howe so fatally underestimated the will of the American troops and their reckless leader that he left his Hessian soldiers at Trenton, confident the war would be won in the next few months. Washington, on the other hand, was acutely aware of the morale of his soldiers. After the defeat in New York and the humiliating retreat, they needed something positive to inspire them, and Trenton was right there for the taking.

The plan was one only Washington could have thought up - bold, gutsy and downright dangerous, he led his soldiers across the perilous and icy Delaware River on a freezing Boxing Day in 1776. Only 2,400 of his men were able to make it across without turning back, but it was enough.

Valley Forge Pennsylvania, 28 January 1777

The cold today was worse than it has ever been. The crowded wooden huts provide shelter from the biting wind, but the cold passes between the slats, through my threadbare shirt and nestles in my bones. My quest to procure a set of shoes continues to be unsuccessful. I thought that after marching through the snow in bare feet someone would take pity on me - but there are no supplies coming. The food too is running low. For the past week I have only eaten firecake - a sticky, bland abomination of water and flour that fills my stomach but leaves the soul ravenous.

I shouldn't complain - I am one of the lucky few untouched by the diseases that ravage the camp. So many men have been plagued by itchy rashes and blisters or fevers that refuse to calm. The only relief here are the brave few women who wash and mend our uniforms, or sometimes simply provide a shoulder to men who have no will to go on.



Rebels

Organisation

There were 35,000 continentals in the United States with 44,500 militia. Their French allies increased their numbers with 12,000 French soldiers in America and 63,000 at Gibraltar. They also had 53 ships in service throughout the war. George Washington was commander in chief and Nathanael Greene served as major general.

Weapons

When the war began the colonies did not have a professional standing army of any kind, with many colonies only able to supply minutemen who were required to equip themselves - with most carrying rifles. The army's weapon of choice was the flintlock musket and they also carried bayonets.

Resources

The Continental Army suffered from massive supply issues. Supplies were repeatedly seized by British patrols. They also had to combat a primitive road system, which resulted in regular shortages of food, clothing, ammunition, tents and a host of essential military equipment, constantly pitching the odds against them.

Morale

The rebels' greatest weapon was the belief in their grand cause - fighting for their liberty from the oppressive British Crown. It was this strong morale belief in their cause that encouraged American leaders, who knew they were facing a well equipped and disciplined foe, to push on despite multiple crippling defeats.



Redcoats

Organisation

There were 56,000 British redcoats in North America along with a combined force of 52,000 loyalists, freed slaves and natives. They also had 78 Royal Navy ships at their service. William Howe served as commander in chief, but there were many decorated generals and officers such as Thomas Gage and Henry Clinton.

Weapons

The British army depended on the .75-calibre flintlock musket popularly known as "Brown Bess." They also carried bayonets and, occasionally, short-barrel muskets. The redcoats also used cannons to great effect, to the degree that if an American unit was without cannon, they would not face a cannon-supported British troop.

Resources

Although British soldiers were better equipped than their American counterparts, they were fighting away from home, and supplies could take months to reach their destinations. Many British had to rely on loyal locals supplying them with food and praying the vital supplies would survive the 4,800km (3,000mi) trip across the ocean.

Morale

The British believed they could easily steamroll the rebels and this underestimation of their foe cost them dearly. The war was also expensive, and support at home was mixed at best. For many soldiers struggling in terrible conditions away from home, there was little motivation to fight.

Adjusted for inflation, Washington was the wealthiest US president of all time

Washington and his men crossing the Delaware River

Completely unprepared for the attack, the Hessians at Trenton were overwhelmed and swiftly defeated by Washington and his men. A few days later the commander led a counter-attack on a British force sent to attack his army at Princeton, achieving another small - but essential - American victory.

Meanwhile, the British redcoats still believed the rebellion could be stopped like a cork in a bottle. Howe thought that by taking control of key colonial cities, the river of rebellion would turn into a drought and the population would surrender to British rule. When Howe set his sights on the revolutionary hub of Philadelphia, Washington rode out to meet him, but, perhaps with his previous victories clouding his judgement, the commander was outmatched and Philadelphia fell to the British. However, the colonists' cause received a major boon when British General Burgoyne was forced to surrender his entire army of 6,300 men at the Battle of Saratoga. It seemed that major world players were finally beginning to believe the Americans had a chance of besting the mighty British Empire, and France openly allied itself with the rebels.

While General Howe concentrated on capturing key cities, Washington had a revelation. Although individual battles were important, the key to victory was not military success, but instead his ability to keep the heart of the resistance alive and pumping.

"When Washington retired from service in 1758, as far as he was concerned, his time on the battlefield was over"

This was something out of British hands and solely in his own.

This spirit of rebellion faced its most challenging obstacle yet over the long winter of 1777. For six long months the soldiers at the military camp of Valley Forge suffered thousands of disease-ridden deaths. With starvation rife and supplies low, many feared the horrendous conditions would force the desperate army to mutiny. Washington himself faced immense criticism from the American public and Congress, who urged him to hurry the war

effort, while behind the scenes anti-Washington movements gained ground. Washington simply replied: "Whenever the public gets dissatisfied with my service [...] I shall quit the helm [...] and retire to a private life." The critics soon fell silent.

Although the conditions had been testing, to put it mildly, the soldiers emerged from the



winter in good spirits. Washington demonstrated that his sting was stronger than ever when his forces attacked the British flank attempting to leave Monmouth Courthouse. Although the battle ultimately ended in a stalemate, Washington had finally achieved what he set out to do since the beginning of the war – hold his own in a pitched battle. This was massive for the Americans; it proved the growing Continental Army was developing its skills at an alarming speed, and if the horrendous winter they had emerged from had not crushed them, what chance did the British have? The French seemed to share this attitude. On 5 September 1781, 24 French ships emerged victorious against 19 British vessels at the Battle of Chesapeake. The success prevented the British from reinforcing the troops of Lord Cornwallis, who was blockaded in Yorktown, Virginia, and allowed crucial French troops to pour into the Continental Army, bringing vast supplies of artillery with them. This was exactly the opportunity Washington needed, and he didn't plan to let it go to waste.

With the British army trapped and exposed, and his own swelling in size, Washington led his men out of Williamsburg and surrounded Yorktown. From late-September the Continental Army moved steadily closer to the redcoats, forcing them to pull back from their outer defences, which left them

open for the Americans and French to use. As the colonists began to set up artillery, the British pelted them with steady fire. In spite of this and at some great risk to himself, Washington continued to visit and motivate his men on the front line, and by 5 October the commander was ready to make his move.

As a vicious storm raged, Washington grasped his pickaxe in his hand and struck several blows into the dirt that would become the new trench the Americans would use to bombard the British. By 5pm on 9 October, the Americans were pelting the British with a relentless stream of cannon fire. The British ships were sunk and soldiers deserted en masse. More American trenches were dug as they gained land, and when Washington's men rushed toward the British redoubt, they overwhelmed the surprised redcoats. As Washington rained artillery fire down on the town, Cornwallis's attempts at escape across the York River were unsuccessful and he finally surrendered.

Little did Washington know that the victory he had secured at Yorktown would lead to the ultimate surrender of British hostilities, the end of the war and ultimately American freedom. On 3 September 1783 the Treaty of Paris was signed between representatives of both countries, which proclaimed that Britain recognised the independence of



The Capitol in Washington, DC, under construction

Siege of Yorktown

Naval blockade

The French victory at the Battle of Chesapeake allows admiral De Grasse to set up a blockade that prevents any chance of Cornwallis escaping by sea. This news encourages Washington to march toward Virginia and corner the British officer.

British surrender

Early in the morning on 17 October the British surrender, and by 19 October the men are taken as prisoners of war. Cornwallis refuses to meet with Washington, claiming to be ill while his army lay down their weapons, a crowd of civilians eagerly watching on.

The American assault

Using the French to distract the British attention, the Americans march toward redoubt #10. They chop through the British defences with axes then charge with their bayonets. Although the redcoats attempt to fight back, they are overwhelmed by the colonists.

The first attack

The British pull back from their outer defences, which the American and French forces take advantage of. They set up artillery and dig trenches, and by 9 October they begin to bombard the redcoats.

Washington myths cut down



We get an expert opinion on the myths surrounding this legendary man

Stephen Brummwell is a freelance writer and independent historian living in Amsterdam. His book, *George Washington: Gentleman Warrior*, won the 2013 George Washington Book Prize.

He had wooden teeth

George Washington was plagued with dental problems from his twenties, and by 1789, had just one of his own teeth remaining. He owned several sets of false teeth, but none was crafted from wood. Instead, Washington's dentures incorporated a variety of materials - bone, 'sea-horse', or hippopotamus ivory, and human teeth - fixed by lead, gold and metal wire. The belief that Washington's false teeth were wooden probably originated in the brown-stained appearance of surviving examples - apparently owing to his fondness for port wine.

He cut down a cherry tree and confessed to his father

Perhaps the best known of all the legends spun around Washington, the 'cherry tree story' first surfaced in a biography written after his death by Mason Locke Weems. Concerned with portraying Washington as an exemplary role model for his countrymen, 'Parson Weems' concocted the fable of the six-year-old hatcheting his father's prized cherry tree, and then deflecting parental wrath by frankly confessing to the deed with the words "I can't tell a lie, Pa."

Washington was a moonshiner

While there's no proof that Washington set up illicit liquor stills to make moonshine, he was certainly in the forefront of American whiskey production. On the advice of his Scottish farm manager, James Anderson, he established a whiskey distillery at Mount Vernon in 1797. By the year of Washington's death, 1799, this was producing almost 41,640l (11,000gal) of rye and corn whiskey, making it the largest US distillery of its day.

He threw a silver dollar across the Potomac River

Standing 188cm (6'2") tall, and with a well-muscled physique, young George Washington was renowned for his strength. Yet even Washington in his prime would have struggled to hurl a silver dollar across the Potomac River, which is more than 1.6km (1mi) wide opposite his Virginian home at Mount Vernon. Also, silver dollars were only introduced in 1794, when Washington was already in his sixties.

He wore a wig

Although wigs were fashionable during Washington's lifetime, he never wore one, preferring to keep his own hair, which was reddish-brown, long and tied back in a tight queue, or 'pigtail'. However, Washington regularly used the white hair powder that was customary among men of his wealthy social class, especially for formal occasions, and this gave the impression of a wig, apparent in many of his portraits.



A depiction of Washington's entry into New York in 1759



Washington has been immortalised on Mount Rushmore along with Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln

the United States. With victory declared, Washington disbanded his army and wished farewell to the men who had valued him not only as a leader, but also a fellow soldier. On 23 December 1783, in an action that would define him in the history books, he resigned as commander in chief of the army and humbly returned to his home in Mount Vernon.

However, without him his country was struggling. With nobody to unite them the states fought and squabbled among themselves over boundaries and inflicted harsh taxes on their own citizens. The ex-commander watched from afar as the land he had led to freedom struggled to support itself. He was dismayed, but hesitant to act. It wasn't until an armed uprising known as Shays' Rebellion took place in Massachusetts that Washington was finally persuaded to step into the limelight once more.

Washington quietly attended the Constitution Convention held in Philadelphia in 1787. There

"Washington did not see himself as a leader capable of leading such a vitally important force"

he sat and listened silently to the proceedings, speaking only once. However, his prestige spoke volumes and those gathered there agreed the national government needed more authority - it needed a figure strong and commanding enough to maintain control. Washington was unanimously chosen to fulfil this role.

He became president of the convention in 1787, and by 1789 he was unanimously elected once

more, but this time as the first-ever president of the United States - the only one in history to receive 100 per cent of the votes. He would serve two terms as president from 1789 to 1797 until he would yet again relinquish the power he could so easily have exploited. In the spring of 1797, he finally returned to his precious Mount Vernon, realising, perhaps more so than any one of the many people who supported him, that ultimate power in the land of the free could not lay solely in one man's hands indefinitely.

WATERLOO

THE FALL OF



NAPOLÉON MYTHS BUSTED

He was short

This myth comes from confusion over French inches as well as the fact that 'Le Petit Caporal' was always surrounded by his tall bodyguards. Napoleon was most likely about 5'6", near average for his era.

Now upheld as a source of British pride, in reality, Waterloo was the final gamble of a man willing to risk it all

Napoleon was losing. He knew he was losing. But he had been so confident in his speeches that his troops were unaware of this fact that was so blatant to him. "Wellington is a bad general," he had told his men, but that bad general had beaten him. Though it pained him to admit it, his own mistakes had played a part too. He heard a voice, it must have been his own, shouting encouragement as he rode between the ranks. His words were strong and firm, but his face must have told a different story, as he could feel the concerned eyes of his aides upon him.

He watched as his men were cut down and fired upon; all around him blue-uniformed bodies littered the sodden ground as the enemy relentlessly advanced. Men screamed, sobbed



WATERLOO

NAPOLEON

and some were struck silent with fear as disorder reigned supreme. Just two hours ago victory had been his. In that time he had lost it all - the battle, his empire, and life as he knew it.

Napoleon's path to Waterloo, his glorious rise and disastrous fall, is among the greatest and most terrible the world has, and will ever, see. General Bonaparte had been far more than simply a man in the right place at the right time - his path from relative obscurity to glorified emperor had been carved by his tactical genius, fearless spirit and electrifying charisma. He had carried a country from its knees to the highest podium of the world stage. Under his leadership, France had seized control of the majority of continental Europe and Napoleon became the ruler of 70 million people.

Through war, sacrifice and conquest, Napoleon had come closer than anyone to achieving his ultimate dream - a unified, peaceful Europe. But in 1812, his decision to invade Russia caused all he had built to come crashing down. The campaign was a catastrophe and the man who was used to winning battles was forced to learn how to deal with losing them. His victories had come in spectacular succession; his defeats followed in kind. Prussia, Russia and Austria united against France and unleashed a brutal blow at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813. Swiftly, the empire crumbled and the invader soon faced an invasion of his own. In 1814, the allies arrived on French shores and, though buffered by Napoleon's military acumen along the way, in March they reached the capital.

Despite its reputation, Waterloo was a close-run battle that either side could have won



DEFINING MOMENT

BATTLE OF WATERLOO,
18 JUNE 1815

Napoleon's 72,000 troops were defeated by Wellington's allies and Prussian troops at Waterloo which led to Napoleon's abdication.

In a matter of days Napoleon watched as men who had fought loyally by his side turned their backs on him one by one. In the face of the unbeatable allied threat, it was Napoleon, they claimed, not France, who was their enemy. The allies agreed. On 2 April the emperor was declared deposed. Napoleon himself, at the time leading an army in Fontainebleau, proposed they march on the capital, but with his power vanishing, his officers and marshals mutinied. Napoleon had no option but to accept his fate and on 6 April, announced his unconditional abdication, proclaiming there was "no personal sacrifice, even that of his life, which he [was] not ready to make in the interests of France." Napoleon was exiled to the island of Elba, out of the way, hopefully, for good.

Elba wasn't the most welcoming place for Napoleon to rebuild his following, or himself. An effigy of the emperor had been burned shortly before he arrived and the feeling was entirely anti-French. But Napoleon threw himself into the role of ruler on the tiny European backwater island. Instead of accepting his doom, Napoleon began to build an army and plan his glorious

return. Englishmen who came to glimpse the fallen emperor reported him dejected, broken and resigned - but this was a damning mistake. Le

Petit Caporal was playing them, obtaining what information he could about France and England so he could do what he did best - scheme and plan his victory. As rumours of a conspiracy to assassinate or remove him from Elba began to circulate, he launched his escape on 26 February 1815.

While Napoleon had orchestrated the escape to save himself from disappearing into the dusts of history, to the French his return was a gallant rescue from the old-fashioned Bourbon monarchy that replaced him. The people and the military rallied around their hero of liberty, and for a brief moment France seemed plunged back into the revolution that had helped Napoleon climb to power in the first place.

But the allies were quick to damn the actions of the 'mad' emperor and encouraged the French to "annihilate this last attempt of a criminal and impotent delirium." The allies wanted war against Napoleon, they wanted him dead, and they wanted the French people to do it for them. But his exile and return had only strengthened the emperor in the hearts of his followers, and under such immense opposition, Louis XVIII fled. Napoleon was, once again, in control, but beyond the confines of France, he was declared an outlaw.

Despite his glorious return to power, the Napoleon who had clutched the world in his fist in 1805 was gone. The man of action, self-confidence and charisma had vanished. He was constantly asking for advice, several times he was found sobbing and even his body seemed broken. This was not a victor, this was a man who had felt the bitter pill of failure and betrayal - and he did not wish to taste it again. It is likely that Napoleon was anxious, and he had good reason to be, he knew very well what awaited him - the wrath of his

NAPOLÉON MYTHS BUSTED

He was a warlord

Napoleon was a military man, but what he longed for was a unified, peaceful Europe. As well as being a dictator, he was a reformer who established France's legal code, and a supporter of liberty and equality.

ANATOMY OF A NAPOLEONIC SOLDIER

Knapsack

Made from tanned calfskin, the standard soldier would carry a bag that weighed between 15-20kg. It would be filled with spare cartridges, shoes, shirts, trousers, polishing brushes, biscuits and a variety of personal items.

Facial hair

There were strict rules regarding facial hair in the Grande Armée. Hussars were required to grow beards, grenadiers had to have large moustaches and it was mandatory for chasseurs to sport goatees.

Elaborate uniforms

A huge amount of money was spent on French uniforms, producing a stunning display of pomp and luxury. Pompoms, plumes and cords gave an air of military splendour that matched the charisma of their emperor. An infantryman's uniform would cost between 200 and 250 francs, while a cuirassier's could be as much as 2,000.

Weapons

Infantrymen would be armed with a 1777 Charleville musket with a bayonet. They would also carry a black leather cartridge box on a white shoulder belt that held about 35 rounds of ammunition.



Waterloo: The Fall of Napoleon



It is said that, facing a regiment upon his return to France, Napoleon stepped forward and proclaimed: "Here I am. Kill your emperor, if you wish"



Marshal Ney, pictured leading the cavalry, was executed by firing squad after Napoleon's exile as an example to his supporters

HERO TO ZERO

The battles that marked Napoleon's epic rise and disastrous fall

Battle of Austerlitz

2 December 1805



Also known as the Battle of the Three Emperors, Austerlitz sees Napoleon facing the armies of Tsar Alexander I of Russia and Holy Roman Emperor Francis II.

Napoleon's tactical genius during the battle is virtually unparalleled and leads his smaller force to a definite and crushing victory. The victory brings an end to the War of the Third Coalition, leads to the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire and paves the way for French domination of Europe.

Battle of Rivoli

14-15 January 1797



Part of Napoleon's campaign in Italy, his force of 23,000 easily defeat an Austrian force of 28,000. Using his military genius, Napoleon is able to take

advantage of his enemy's mistakes and destroys the opposing army. Widely upheld as his greatest victory at the time, his success allows the French to go on and take northern Italy.

Battle of Dresden

26-27 August 1813



Outnumbered as usual, the Battle of Dresden pits 135,000 French Empire troops against a combined force of 214,000 Austrian, Prussian and Russian

troops. Initially the French forces positioned in Dresden struggle to hold the city, but when Napoleon arrives, the battle is turned on its head and victory is snatched from defeat. However, Napoleon's failure to follow up on the success of this battle will cost him dearly.

Battle of Leipzig

16-19 October 1813



The largest European battle before World War I, Leipzig is the climax of Napoleon's 1813 German Campaign. Napoleon experiences his first decisive defeat at the

hands of the allied troops and is forced to return to France with a tarnished reputation. The defeat at Leipzig marks the end of the French Empire east of the Rhine and in less than a year, the emperor will be forced to abdicate his throne.

Battle of Trafalgar

21 October 1805



A combined fleet of French and Spanish ships face the might of the English Navy during the war of the Third Coalition. Despite having the greater fleet

numerically, Napoleon's forces are destroyed by the British. This victory assures English naval supremacy and although Napoleon is far from defeated at this point, it puts in motion the series of failures that will lead to Napoleon's final fall.

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE



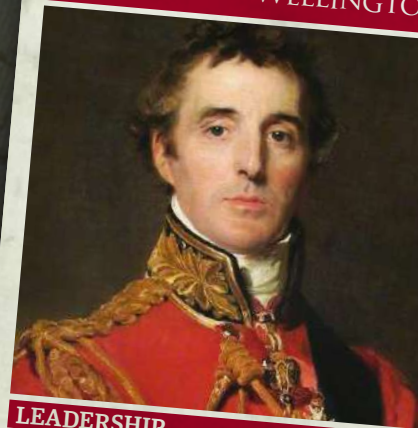
LEADERSHIP	8
MORALE	5
STRATEGY	4
FORCES	8
GUNS	7

THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO

BELGIUM 18 JUNE 1815

After fighting back the advancing Prussians, it was time for Napoleon to face the might of Wellington's troops. With 72,000 French men meeting 68,000 allies, the emperor found himself better equipped, but the coalition was better positioned. The sun rose to reveal the fields deluged; it was time for Napoleon to put his famous tactical genius to the test.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON



LEADERSHIP	7
MORALE	8
STRATEGY	7
FORCES	7
GUNS	6

La Haye Sainte falls

For hours, waves of ferocious French soldiers attack Wellington's stronghold of La Haye Sainte. Finally, at about 6pm, they are victorious, though the cost is heavy in both French and British lives. With his new position, Napoleon is able to use artillery to attack the British centre.

Wellington struggles

Although the Prussians are approaching, they are still a good while away and Wellington struggles to drive back the French from the crucial farmhouse of La Haye Sainte. The British cavalry charge into the advancing French infantry - the effect is disastrous for the French forces, which are substantially weakened, but Wellington's left line has also felt the brunt of the attack.

Battle on two fronts

At about 3.30pm Napoleon's troops finally meet Blücher's Prussians five miles east of the main fighting. Yet again Napoleon's troops are at a tactical disadvantage as the Prussians have the high ground. As the fighting intensifies, Napoleon is forced to commit more men to the Prussian battle, significantly stretching his forces.

Napoleon delays

Napoleon is aware that Wellington has the stronger position, and the sodden ground makes moving his men and guns difficult. However, he knows that Blücher's Prussian army are steadily approaching the field. He decides to risk delay and waits until the ground has dried out. Instead, he launches an attack on the British at Hougomont farm to make a dent in Wellington's steely defence.

The Prussian arrival

The French manage to break through the allied front line but Wellington's forces use their muskets to great effect. Finally, Blücher's forces arrive on Wellington's left and target Napoleon's right flank. The united strength of the British and Prussian forces overwhelms the French army and Napoleon has no choice but to retreat. His Imperial Guard are so loyal that they sacrifice themselves to give their emperor a chance to escape unharmed.

The emperor attacks

As Wellington's right flank is busy defending Hougomont, Napoleon decides to unleash his forces upon the British centre line. The 18,000-strong force manage to capture Papelotte and the area surrounding La Haye Sainte. Victory seems assured. However, at about 1pm, Napoleon notices movement in the east. It is the Prussians.

Waterloo: The Fall of Napoleon

enemies and war. He had no option but to defend his throne again, else it be seized from beneath him before it was barely warm.

Napoleon was not in the state for war, neither mentally nor physically, but he knew if he didn't act first then defeat was inevitable. He had to strike the English and Prussians in the north, then turn towards the Austrian and Russian forces in Germany before they had time to increase their numbers. With an army comprising a mishmash of inexperienced young recruits and seasoned warriors, Napoleon first struck the Prussians, led by Blücher, and managed to deal a great amount of damage. But crucially, he failed to take advantage of his victory and the Prussians escaped – a mistake he would live to regret. However, for now, Napoleon turned his sights towards the combined British, German and Dutch troops positioned at Waterloo, and commanded by the Duke of Wellington.

Numerically, Napoleon had the advantage. He had wanted to strike before the British had time to build their numbers, and this he did – 72,000 French troops and 246 cannons faced 68,000 allied men with 157 cannons. However, Napoleon, who had so often won battles where the numerical odds were against him, was well aware this was no assurance of victory. What would really matter were the armies' positions, and the weather. It was with the latter particularly that he was extensively unlucky. The previous night there had been a downfall so torrential that the field had been reduced to a swamp of thick, knee-deep

mud. Victor Hugo would later claim that this rain "sufficed for the overthrow of the world," and it certainly affected Napoleon's plans as he struggled to get his guns to the appropriate positions.

Napoleon delayed for as long as he could. He rode among the troops, enthusing his men with long speeches, hoping that just an hour more would allow the ground to dry out. However, with Blücher's Prussian army on their way, he was aware of the need to time this delay perfectly. At either 10am or 11.30am (sources differ), Napoleon began the battle, attacking the British at a large farmhouse called Hougoumont. Claiming possession of this and another farmhouse, La Haye Sainte, was key, as they would allow the French to attack Wellington's main line unopposed.

The fighting at Hougoumont was fierce and frenzied. A French officer had managed to push his way through and break down the gate with an axe; French soldiers streamed in, but the allies closed the gate and slaughtered all who had entered. The fighting continued at Hougoumont for hours. Napoleon sent 14,000 troops into the mad fray, and towards the end the building was even set alight, but the coalition managed to hold out. Wellington would later comment: "The success of the battle turned upon closing the gates at Hougoumont."

Napoleon turned his attention to the Anglo-allied centre. He commanded the Grand Battery to fire at Wellington's position. Although many allied lives were saved by the men simply lying down on the slopes, the fierce and devastating cannon fire struck a much-needed dent in Wellington's defence. Napoleon finally seemed to be gaining an advantage, but then the Prussians were sighted.

The black-clad figures emerged en masse from the woods at the east of the battlefield; they were heading for Napoleon's right flank.

The emperor now knew that timing would determine everything, so at 1.30pm he launched what he hoped would be a final and devastating artillery assault at the left centre of the allied line. However, his troops had to traverse uneven, muddy ground against relentless

British cannon fire and the losses were heavy. Nevertheless, the French managed to push through the allied lines and climbed the slope towards the crucial La Haye Sainte farmhouse. If it was captured, Napoleon would be able to attack the British forces at close range and victory would be within his grasp.

Wellington, seeing his infantry about to buckle, sent a swift and brutal cavalry charge that sliced through the French infantry. This dealt a great amount of damage to Napoleon's forces, but it also

NAPOLÉON MYTHS BUSTED

The British hated him

This is not entirely true, as there was a strong current of British thought that supported him, and the government were so fearful of an uprising that they refused to allow Napoleon on British soil before his exile.



One of Napoleon's central strengths was the support he summoned within his ranks, especially from his Imperial Guard



Napoleon's tomb has pride of place in Les Invalides

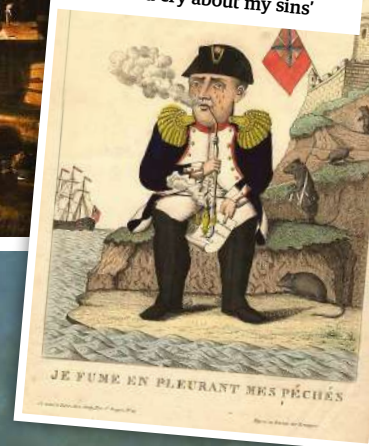
THE EMPEROR'S LEGACY

Napoleon's legacy had already begun even before he passed away, and he sharply divided opinion the world over as soon as his conquests began. For his supporters, he was a force of justice, spreading the French values of freedom and liberty with the ultimate goal of peace and national unification. This continues today; Napoleon's policies created the basis for a legal system used worldwide, allowing freedom of religion and judging on merit rather than birth. However, there are those who disagree. Although beginning with good intentions, many believe he was driven by selfish ambitions that resulted in the loss of millions of lives. The 200th anniversary of his victory of Austerlitz was not officially celebrated in France and the emperor is far from a national hero, such as the likes of Charles de Gaulle. However, it is important to note that he is also not regarded as a merciless dictator - evident in how many monuments bear his name throughout France as well as his place of rest, Les Invalides, which is one of the most opulent buildings in the capital. The discussion of whether Le Petit Caporal was a liberator or tyrant seems set to continue, but both sides do agree on something - his immense impact upon Europe is still being felt today.

Napoleon was known for having a memory second to none, able to remember where all his units were at any point in battle



Napoleon was often the subject of caricatures. This one reads 'I smoke and cry about my sins'



Napoleon's casualties at the Battle of Waterloo amounted to 41,000, while the allied total was approximately 24,000

Waterloo: The Fall of Napoleon



Napoleon himself was a master of propaganda, and encouraged the myth that surrounded him



severely weakened Wellington's left flank. The duke needed reinforcements, and the Prussians were on their way. Napoleon knew that they were set to arrive at about 4.30pm. He had enough time then, at the lull that occurred at 3pm, to withdraw his forces and set up an appropriate defence for the oncoming attack. But Napoleon had never been, in all his battles, whether personal or on the battlefield, one to play it safe. He was a gambler. Instead of retreating, with the Prussians bearing down upon him, he ordered his men to do all that they could to capture the La Haye Sainte and ensure his victory.

The French threw everything they had at the allied lines. The Grand Battery pounded them with cannon fire and finally, between 6 and 6.30pm, the crucial farmhouse was in French possession. It seemed that Napoleon's gamble had paid off. Wellington's attempts to retake the stronghold were easily repulsed and French artillery was quickly brought forward to the crucial position near Wellington's central line.

Everything now hung on the Prussian reinforcements arriving on time. Wellington knew that without them, the battle was lost; so did Napoleon.

The emperor's men were stretched and tired. When Marshal Ney, commanding the army from the field, asked Napoleon for more troops to deliver the killing blow, he was said to have responded: "Troops! Where do you want me to get them from? Do you want me to make them?" In reality, Napoleon thought it was more important to prolong the Prussian arrival to the battle. The Prussians had been hammering the right flank of his army in an attempt to take the village of Plancenoit, and Napoleon knew that as long as the Prussians were engaged there, he would have more time to break Wellington's centre.

This is when Napoleon decided to unleash his trump card, the force that had repeatedly turned unwinnable battles in his favour - his Imperial Guard. Napoleon's 'Invincibles' were fresh faced and ready to fight. Wellington would later say that Napoleon's presence on the battlefield was worth 40,000 soldiers - Napoleon was about to put that to the test. He rode within 600 yards of Wellington's lines to encourage his troops and salute their cries of "vive l'empereur!" The battalions formed three lines, and with music playing, flags flying and saluting Napoleon as they passed, they came thundering out to meet the British central line.

Wellington's cannons were ready to receive them. At such close range huge holes were ripped in the French lines but the mighty guard rode on. They continued through fields covered with the bodies of their fallen allies. The sight was imposing, but Wellington's men were waiting for them in the long grass behind the ridge. As the French broke through the line, the allies leapt up and opened

fire at point-blank range, devastating Napoleon's 'unbeatable' force. For the first time in the history of Napoleon's Grande Armée, the cry of "the guard is retreating!" rang through the field. The guard, Napoleon's ace in the hole, had been defeated.

The effect was instant. The French hurried to escape the field and Wellington threw his forces upon the retreating soldiers. Around the same time the Prussians had managed to recapture Plancenoit, and the Old Guard, who had been supporting the French position there, joined the mass of troops retreating in panic. What began as a defeat turned into a rout as the Prussian forces joined the fray, lancing retreating Frenchmen in the back as retribution for the devastation they had felt at the hands of the French Empire. Knowing all was lost, Napoleon made an attempt to plunge himself into the heart of enemy fire, but was prevented from doing so. Embittered, broken and defeated, Napoleon was spotted the next morning by one of his officers, standing near a fire, with tears streaming down his face.

Napoleon had plenty of opportunity to rally his troops to fight again. He had, after all, 117,000 men in his control in the north - but he did nothing. Battles were fought and won by France, but not by Napoleon. Perhaps then he had realised the ultimate truth - he could win as many battles as he liked, but he could not win the war.

The united allied forces were too strong; his own position in Paris too precarious. The campaign, he realised, was lost before it even began. When Napoleon returned to Paris in the early hours of 21 June, he was warned that he was safer to remain with the army, but he bitterly replied: "The blow I have received is mortal." He dully asked for a meeting to build another army to save the country. When this was denied, his response was nothing but alarming laughter. The chamber of representatives, perhaps still a little wary of Napoleon's hold over his followers, invited him to abdicate. Refusal, they told him, would mean deposition. Napoleon abdicated for the second and final time the following day.

After he learned of the Prussians' plans to capture him dead or alive, Napoleon fled the city and considered escaping to the United States. However, this plan proved impossible and instead Napoleon, clearly now a desperate man, sought asylum from his long-time enemies, the British. They responded by placing him on the island of Saint Helena. Although he was still accompanied by a band of loyal followers, his exile marked the end of Napoleon's leadership. He was forced to live out his remaining days in the decrepit and damp conditions of Longwood House. Within six years he was dead. Although his passing marked the end of the conquests that had shaken the foundations of the earth, it was the beginning of a legacy that still burns strongly to this day.



LINCOLN'S CIVIL WAR

Politically, the president of a country waging war on itself ought to have failed, yet Abraham Lincoln is revered for his leadership when American fought American

The bombardment began at 4.30am. Cannon batteries stationed around the harbour at Charleston in South Carolina launched salvo after salvo upon a small island fort. By 11am, a fifth of its buildings were on fire. Soon after midday, the fort's flagpole was struck, and 'Old Glory', the national flag of the United States, fell. For the structure under fire was Fort Sumter, a stronghold of the Federal Government in the first state to secede from the Union. The commander of the fort, Major Robert Anderson, had refused to surrender it to General PGT Beauregard of the Confederate army, and the cannons were lit. It was 12 April 1861. The American Civil War had begun.

The besieged fort remained under fire for 34 hours before Anderson surrendered. Somehow, no one perished in the actual attack. Yet, unmistakably, the forces of the Confederate States of America had opened fire on the forces of the United States of America. The nation was divided and at war with itself. How had it come to this?

Perhaps it was inevitable given the contradiction between the words in the 1776 Declaration of Independence and the morality of those who wrote them. The Declaration stated that it was a "self-evident" truth that "all men are created equal." Yet its guiding author, Thomas Jefferson, and many other signatories were slave owners. Indeed, the Constitution of 1787 permitted slavery. As many as eight presidents owned slaves while in office and many others in government were slaveholders.

However, opposition to slavery was growing on moral, political and religious grounds. Many of the Northern States had abolished it by 1800. It was

soon to be outlawed by the British Empire, too. As the abolition movement grew, inhabitants of the Southern States took to defending slavery as a 'paternalistic' institution, and a 'positive good', even using biblical references in their arguments. In reality, slavery in the South was the driving force of the region's economy. Plantation owners, particularly in the cotton fields, relied heavily upon slave labour. It wasn't going to be given up easily.

After the war with Mexico ended in 1848, the borders of the American Republic became finalised. Expansion into the new territories to the west

"We all declare for liberty, but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing"

Address to Baltimore, 1864

began, but disputes about whether they should become free or slave states were fierce, and at times violent. Various compromises and short-term fixes gave some stability, but the ultimate problem was crystallised by a speech on 16 June 1858 in Springfield, Illinois. It was given by the newly formed Republican Party's candidate for the Illinois Senate seat. He argued: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half

free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved. I do not expect this house to fall. But I do expect it will cease to be divided." The candidate's name was Abraham Lincoln.

Born in 1809 to a poor Kentucky farming family, Lincoln was raised in a single-room log cabin. With minimal formal education, he virtually taught himself, later earning a living through various manual jobs. After the family moved to Illinois, he applied his mind to learning the law, eventually passing the bar exam in 1836. Lincoln made a success of his profession to earn a good living. He married Mary Todd, the daughter of a wealthy Kentucky slaveholder, in 1846 and later served a single term in the House of Representatives as a Whig party member. The Whigs, though, were a waning political force. A new grouping, the Republicans, which opposed the extension of slavery to the newer states, appealed to Lincoln. He joined them in 1856. Within two years, he was selected as the Republican Party's Illinois nomination for the US Senate.

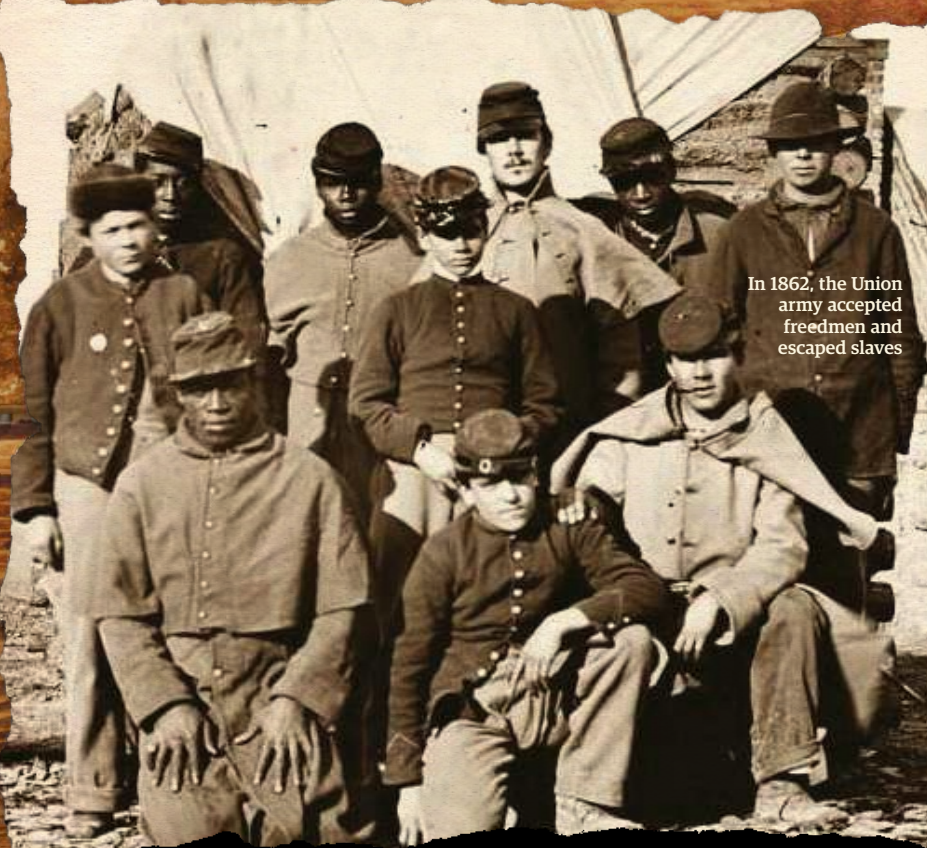
Lincoln's opponent was the sitting US senator of the Democrat Party Stephen Douglas. The pair contested seven debates, which were extensively reported in newspapers across the country. Lincoln's closely argued proposition of prohibiting the extension of slavery in the new territories frequently forced Douglas on to the back foot. Despite that, Douglas prevailed when the state legislature (which at that time elected US senators) voted 54-46 in the Democrat's favour. However, the positions Douglas had adopted in countering Lincoln's arguments angered his party's members



◆
DEFINING MOMENT

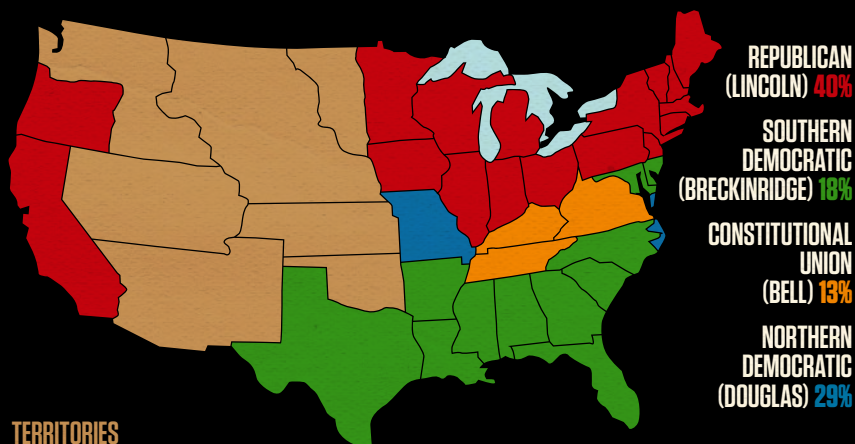
THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865

For more than four years a brutal conflict rocked the United States, ultimately leading to the end of slavery in the US and the assassination of a president.



In 1862, the Union army accepted freedmen and escaped slaves

1860 Electoral Map of United States



The 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment at the Second Battle of Fort Wagner

in the Southern States, which later proved costly.

In contrast, despite losing the Senate race, Lincoln won widespread acclaim as an eloquent debater for Republican values. When his party sought a candidate to run for president in 1860, it turned to the poor farmer's boy from Kentucky.

The belief was that as a moderate candidate, Lincoln could win in Pennsylvania and the Midwest States. He was not an abolitionist, like some more radical members of his party, and he pledged not to interfere with slavery in the Southern States. Indeed, he felt the Constitution prohibited any attempt to do so. Yet he had always been against slavery, labelling it wrong both morally and politically. His fervent hope was that it would become extinct over time as states moved to reject it. Crucially, however, he was firm in his opposition to allowing it to spread to the new territories.

Meanwhile, as if seeking to test the view that 'a house divided cannot stand', the Democrats split into North and South when choosing a presidential candidate. Those in the North championed

"When I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally"

Statement to an Indiana regiment passing through Washington, 1865

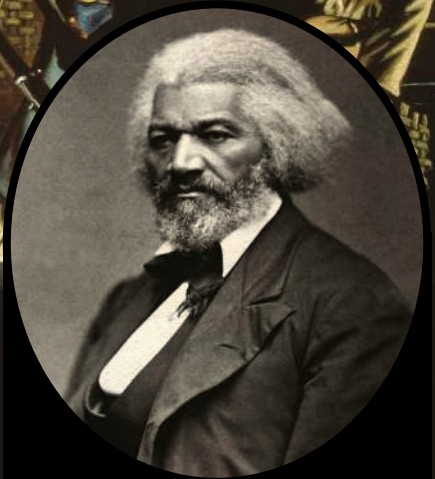
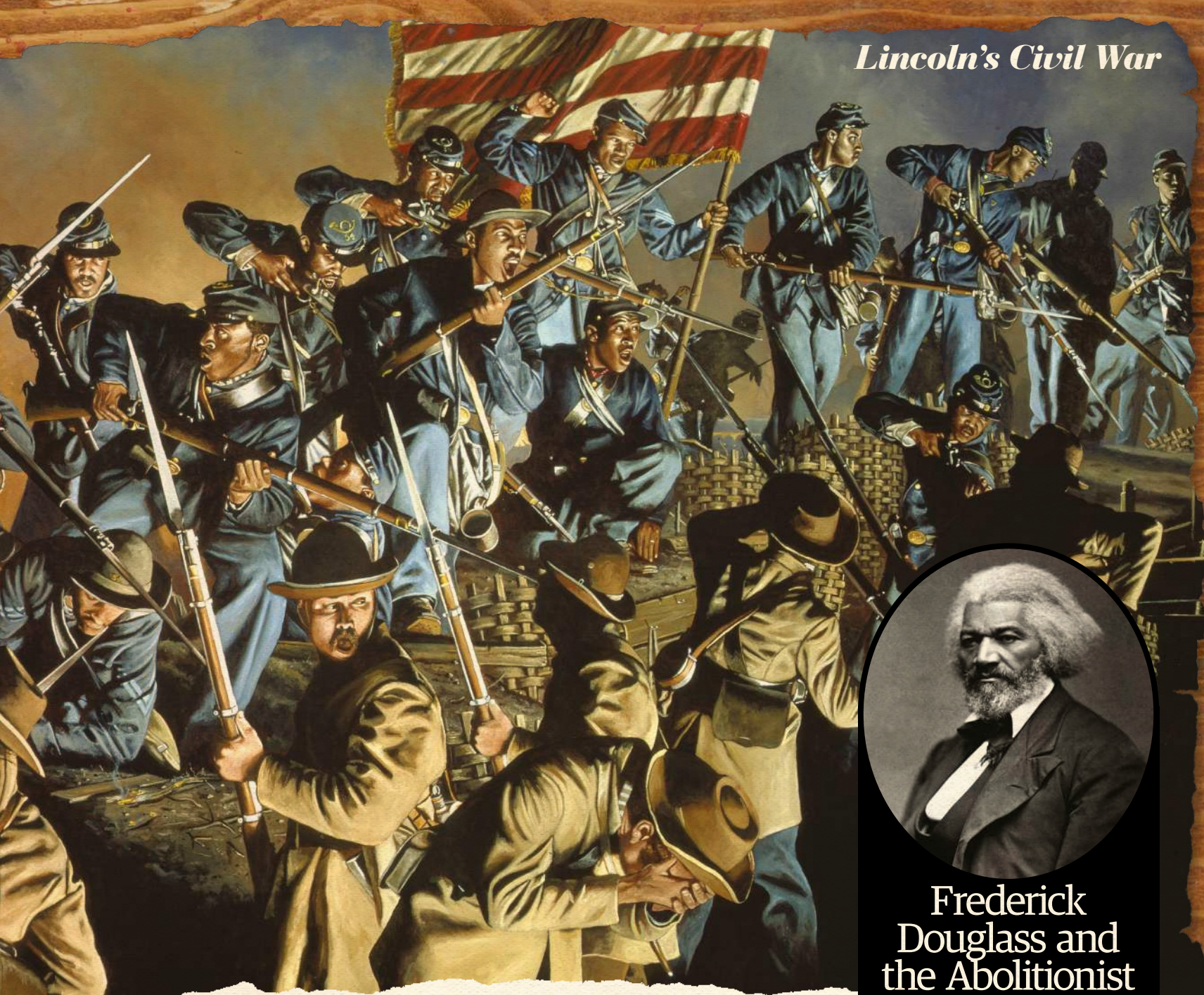
Lincoln's Senate adversary Stephen Douglas. Democrats in the South, though, remained hostile to him. Hardening their position, they selected then current vice-president John Breckinridge, a staunch pro-slavery man, to also stand.

With slightly less than 40 per cent of the national vote, Lincoln garnered enough state electoral votes to become the Union's 16th president. Yet in the Southern States, where his name often didn't even appear on the ballot paper, hardly anyone voted for him. Fuelled by a sense of unfairness, within days of Lincoln's victory South Carolina organised a secession convention. On 20 December 1860, the state left the Union.

Before the new president's inauguration on 4 March 1861, the states Mississippi, Florida, Alabama,

Georgia, Louisiana and Texas also seceded. The seven declared themselves a new nation called The Confederate States of America. It even had a president in place, Jefferson Davis, before Lincoln had actually taken office.

Yet when he did, the 16th president's inauguration speech set out very clearly what was at stake. "In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war," he cautioned. Lincoln stated unequivocally that his government would not orchestrate an invasion of the Confederacy, but if Union outposts in it came under attack, he was duty bound as president to act in their defence. "You can have no conflict," the speech continued, "without yourselves being the aggressors." And



Frederick Douglass and the Abolitionist Movement

so they proved to be at Fort Sumter. Perhaps inevitably, then, war it was.

Four more states - Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee - quickly joined the other rebels, making it 11 against the Union's 23. The act of firing upon the flag was seen as treasonous, even by Lincoln's Democrat adversaries like Douglas, and after the fall of Old Glory at Fort Sumter, the North now had a reason to go to war. Its aim was to put an end to secession and save the Union. The South's objective was far simpler: it merely needed to survive.

The Confederacy was suffering from a much smaller population and was massively weaker in terms of industrial power and financial resources. Taken together, these factors pointed to a war that was going to be a long struggle. Both sides needed to call on large numbers of volunteers to form their armies. Leading them were officers from the pre-war US Army Military Academy at West Point. A significant number of the more able were from the South, and many resigned their commissions in

order to fight for the Confederate cause.

This presented Lincoln with a problem. His general-in-chief, Winfield Scott, was a 75-year-old veteran on the verge of retirement, and there was no obvious successor. One contender was Brigadier General Irwin McDowell, who led the Union army in the war's earliest major clash, the First Battle of Bull Run in Virginia. To begin with, this confusing conflict between two virtually new armies of limited training appeared to be going McDowell's way, but stubborn Confederate resistance turned it into a humiliating Union defeat.

With McDowell's star waning, General George McClellan was promoted to general-in-chief when Scott retired. Arrogant and ambitious, McClellan clashed with his political superiors in Washington, and while he trained the army well through the winter, he didn't deliver decisive battlefield victories. McClellan's tactical caution was in stark contrast to the aggressive instincts of Confederate commanders like Robert E Lee. When the pair clashed at the Battle of Antietam in September

Born into slavery in 1818, Frederick Douglass escaped to become a leading campaigner to end the practice and a significant African-American leader of the 19th century.

The son of a slave woman and an unknown white man, Frederick took the surname Douglass after a second, and this time successful, escape from bondage. Living in New Bedford, Massachusetts, he married and became involved in the abolitionist movement, delivering moving lectures on the brutality of his upbringing.

Encouraged to write his autobiography, a powerful indictment of slavery, the book revealed he was a fugitive slave, forcing him to flee to England. Supporters 'purchased' his freedom, allowing Douglass to return in 1847. He quickly set up an anti-slavery newspaper, which continued under various names until 1863.

During the civil war, Douglass lobbied for African-Americans to be allowed to fight. After the Emancipation Proclamation, he recruited for the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, the first regiment of black soldiers. At war's end, he turned to campaigning for black rights, going on to hold several government posts before his death in 1895.

1862, McClellan's force outnumbered Lee's by almost two to one. In ferocious combat - in terms of casualties, it was the costliest day of fighting in American history - the Confederates were driven back to Virginia, but Lincoln was left frustrated that the retreating army was not vigorously pursued. He sacked McClellan two months later.

Conflicts with his generals were a feature of Lincoln's early years in the White House. With war imminent, he had read up voraciously on military theory. He sought to be an involved commander-in-chief, going far beyond visits to troops and military hospitals to raise the moral - which he did many times - to advocating strategy on how the war should be fought. Initially, this came in the form of his Memorandum on Military Policy, which he wrote in the wake of the First Battle of Bull Run debacle. By January 1862, the president was articulating how the land war could be won: by using the Union's superior numbers to attack simultaneously across a broad number of fronts, forcing breakthroughs when the enemy moved

forces to secure pressure points, and at the same time engaging and defeating the enemy armies wherever possible rather than trying to occupy or capture specific places. Lincoln's difficulty was in finding generals who thought like he did.

Still, Antietam was claimed as a Union victory, and following it, Lincoln seized the opportunity to confront the issue of slavery. At war's onset, he had maintained its purpose was to save the Union and pledged to leave the institution of slavery unaffected in the Southern States. Lincoln believed he wasn't able to challenge state-sanctioned servitude under the Constitution, which kept the important border slave states of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware loyal to the Union.

However, as the war unfolded, slavery's effects couldn't be ignored, as they were damaging the Union campaign. Slaves were used to construct defences for the Confederate armies, while slave work on farms and plantations kept the South's economy going, allowing more of the white population to fight. Determined to affect the

balance of the war, Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation in September 1862.

The timing had to be right. Lincoln himself had already been forced to quash military decree emancipations made by several Union generals, because he believed only the president, through constitutionally sanctioned war powers, could enforce emancipation. He was also anxious about public opinion, fearing that if he moved too soon, not enough people in the North would support him, or that he might lose those important border states. It was knife-edge politics, but Lincoln judged that, just five days after the Union victory at Antietam, the time was right to press home the advantage and further undermine the Confederate war effort with the Proclamation.

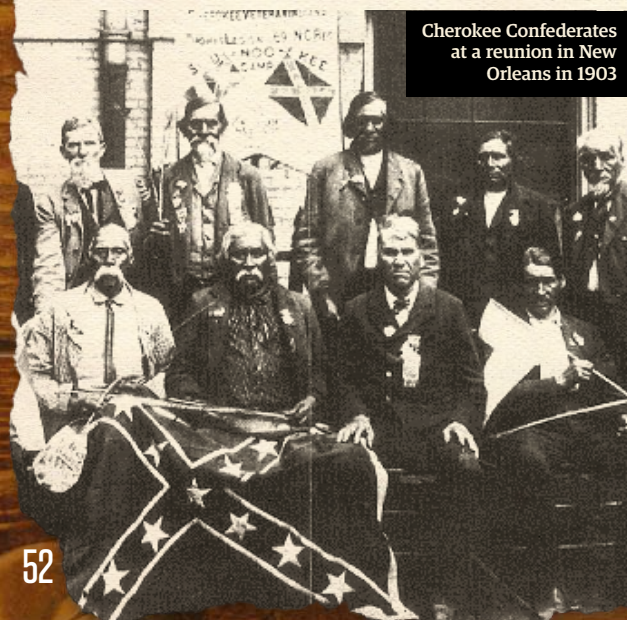
The document offered terms for the rebel states to return to the Union provided they agreed to begin arrangements to end slavery, but if they failed to do so by 1 January 1863, all slaves in those states would be set free forever. As such a move would harm the Confederacy, the president argued it was a legitimate war measure that was both necessary and just. When, as anticipated, the rebel states ignored the Preliminary Proclamation, Lincoln was able to issue the Final Proclamation on the first day of 1863. "I never in my life felt more certain that I am doing right than I do in signing this paper," he said on putting his name to the document. He was sure, and there was considerable hope in the Union

**"In giving freedom to the slave,
we assure freedom to the free"**

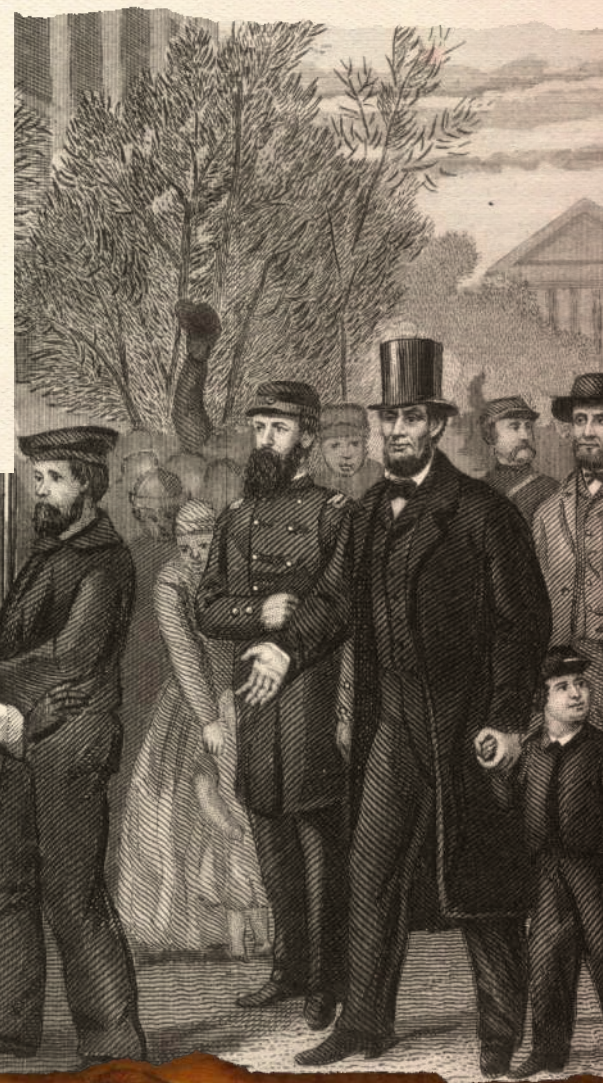
Message to Congress, 1862



Union soldiers at
Fredericksburg during the
Battle of Chancellorsville



Cherokee Confederates
at a reunion in New
Orleans in 1903



that it would hasten the end of the conflict.

The Emancipation Proclamation also had two other important effects. First, it brought a moral dimension to the war. Always an opponent of slavery on grounds of morality, Lincoln had now shifted the aim of the war from being not just about preserving the Union, but to setting people free. While personally important to Lincoln, this was also vital internationally, as the Confederacy had hoped to secure support from Europe. Yet France and the British Empire, where slavery had been outlawed since 1833, could not legitimately be seen to support a slave-holding republic against a nation embarked on setting slaves free.

Second, the Proclamation allowed for freedmen to enlist in the Union army. This, coupled with a surge of African-American volunteers already free in the North, offered a timely and welcome boost in manpower. It paved the way for the United States Colored Troops, which became a significant component of the Union armies.

However, the Proclamation only freed slaves in the states still outside the Union. To go further, Lincoln needed the affirmation of a second election victory, but in the first half of 1864, that didn't seem likely. The war was costing so many lives on both sides that Republican radicals felt the president had mismanaged the conflict and were lobbying for a different candidate, while rebel state armies were proving stubbornly resistant. A small



Lincoln and son Tad in the Confederate capital Richmond after its capture. Days later, Lincoln was assassinated

★ UNION GENERALS ★

Identifying the right man to command Union forces on the ground and fight the campaign he envisaged proved challenging and frustrating for the president



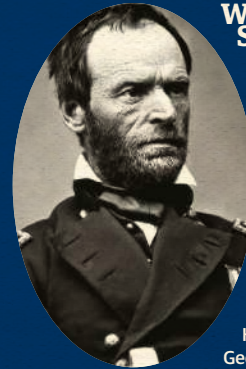
ULYSSES S GRANT

HIGHEST RANK: GENERAL-IN-CHIEF OF UNION ARMIES

APPOINTED: MARCH 1864

★★★★★

After successful raids on forts in Tennessee, Grant was promoted to major general. He was almost routed at Shiloh but retrieved the situation, then further distinguished himself at Vicksburg. He took charge of all Union forces, confronting and finally defeating Lee in Virginia.



WILLIAM SHERMAN

HIGHEST RANK: MAJOR GENERAL, OVERSEEING THE UNION'S WESTERN ARMIES

APPOINTED: MARCH 1864

★★★★★

Sherman was promoted to brigadier general after the First Battle of Bull Run, but he suffered a nervous breakdown. After being reinstated, he then led the capture of Atlanta. He waged 'total war' through Georgia and the Carolinas.



GEORGE MEADE

HIGHEST RANK: MAJOR GENERAL, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

APPOINTED: AUGUST 1864

★★★★★

Despite taking command only days before, Meade defeated Lee at Gettysburg, yet he was heavily criticised for not pursuing the retreating force. Guided by Grant, he led the Army of the Potomac successfully in later campaigns, later earning the rank of major general.



WINFIELD SCOTT

HIGHEST RANK: GENERAL-IN-CHIEF OF UNION ARMIES

APPOINTED: FEBRUARY 1855, RETIRED NOVEMBER 1861

★★★★★

Aged 75 as the conflict began, Scott was unable to take field command, nevertheless he devised the strategy of blockading the South's ports and raiding down the Mississippi. Although rejected, the North triumphed using similar tactics.



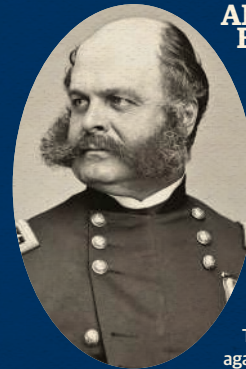
JOSEPH HOOKER

HIGHEST RANK: MAJOR GENERAL, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

APPOINTED: JANUARY 1863

★★★★★

Hooker revitalised the army, restoring morale. However, after successes prior to his appointment when he was dubbed 'Fighting Joe', he endured a chequered career in battle afterwards, and never fully recovered from heavy defeat and retreat at Chancellorsville.



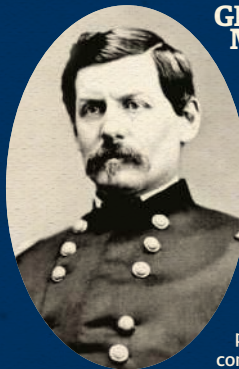
AMBROSE BURNSIDE

HIGHEST RANK: MAJOR GENERAL, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

APPOINTED: NOVEMBER 1862

★★★★★

When he finally replaced McClellan, Burnside attacked but lost expensively at Fredericksburg. Relieved of command, he resurfaced to outwit General Longstreet in Tennessee, but failed badly again at the Battle of Crater.



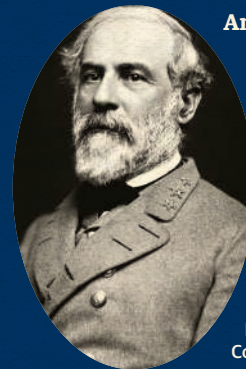
GEORGE MCCLELLAN

HIGHEST RANK: GENERAL-IN-CHIEF OF UNION ARMIES

APPOINTED: NOVEMBER 1861

★★★★★

Although he reorganised the Union army, turning volunteers into an efficient force, McClellan was cripplingly cautious on the battlefield. Failure to exploit advantages frustrated Lincoln, who lost patience and relieved him of command in November 1862.



And one that got away...

ROBERT E LEE

HIGHEST RANK: GENERAL-IN-CHIEF OF CONFEDERATE ARMIES

APPOINTED: FEBRUARY 1865

★★★★★

Lee declined the command of Union forces in April 1861, claiming he was unable to fight fellow Virginians. Becoming a Confederate General, Lee commanded the Army of North Virginia, and later all Confederate forces.

Civil War
Performance

★★★★★
Superb

★★★★★
Effective

★★★★★
Mixed

★★★★★
Disappointing

★★★★★
Poor

LINCOLN'S VICES & VIRTUES

VIRTUES

Arch politician

Aided by stunning speech-making, Lincoln was as skilled a political operator as there has ever been. His genius lay in courting different opinions, often at odds with his own, then setting a course, and bringing those of differing views along with him.

Forbearance

President Lincoln set off along a difficult, painful path with an iron resolve. He faced criticism and scorn from many quarters but he did not waver, believing the cause of protecting the Union was a duty he had to accomplish.

A hands-on leader

From strategic planning to appointing or dismissing generals, Lincoln was an active, interventionist commander-in-chief during the civil war. Furthermore, he was also equally busy in attending units of active soldiers to raise moral, or visiting the wounded in hospitals.

Honesty

Acquiring the moniker 'Honest Abe' from his days as a young storekeeper, it stuck with Lincoln through his career as a lawyer and later in the White House. His integrity informed both friend and foe alike exactly where they stood with him.

Humour

There was a lighter side to Lincoln. He told stories, yarns, jokes and anecdotes throughout his life to win over audiences, to illustrate certain points, and sometimes just to lighten the mood in cabinet before facing up to important decisions.

VICES

"The vision thing"

George Bush Senior's remark was about his inability to articulate ideas to shape the nation. Lincoln, by his own words, was similarly inhibited when he wrote: "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me."

Race and colonisation

For far too long, Lincoln clung stubbornly to his political hero Henry Clay's views on racial separation via colonisation. Perhaps the lack of vision contributed, but for such a practical politician, it was an extraordinarily impractical solution to support.

Civil rights

Lincoln exercised unprecedented executive power at the onset of the war, including suspending habeas corpus and shutting down opposition newspapers. His measures drew criticism not only from opponents and but also some supporters, who feared he had exceeded his authority.

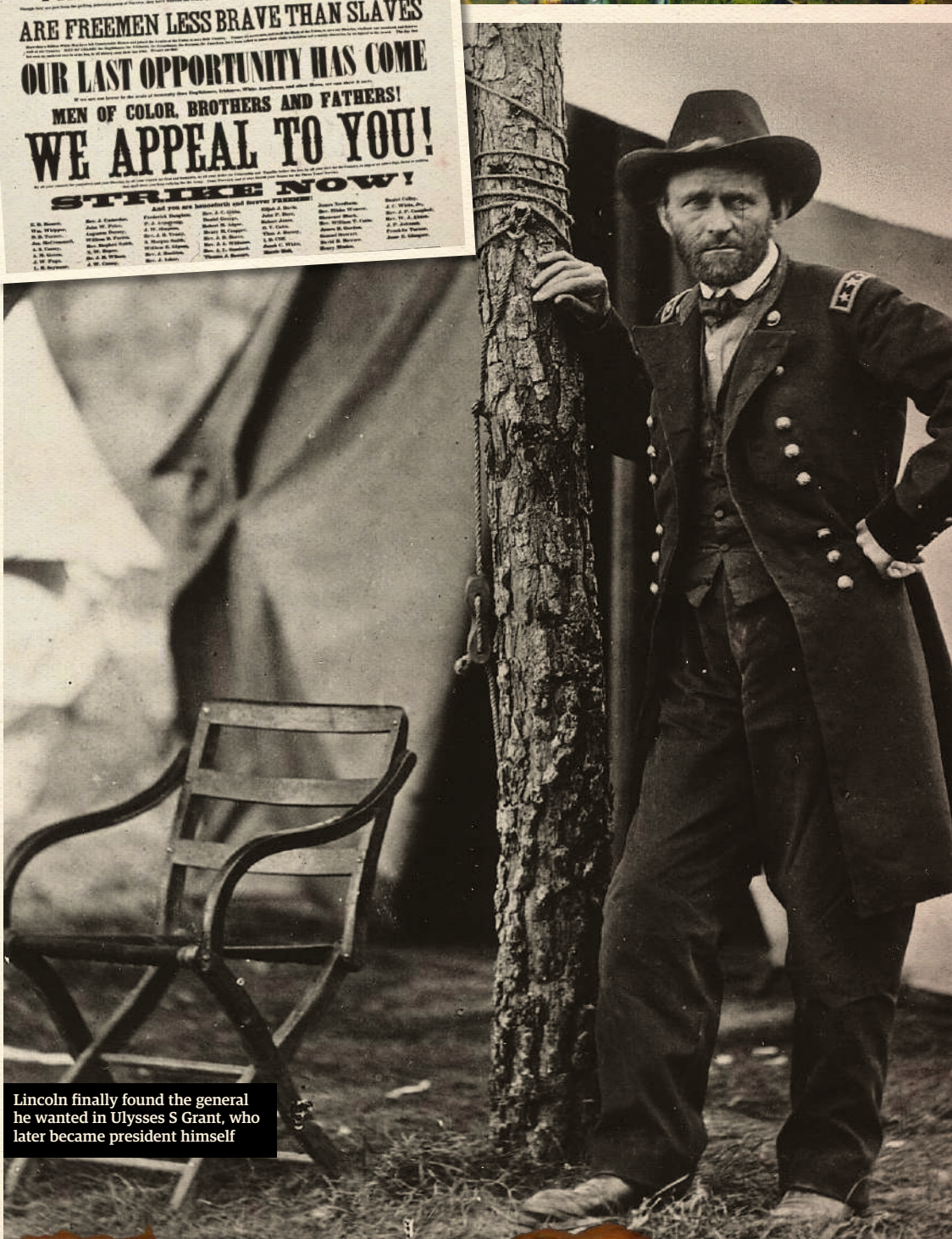
Foolhardiness with his own safety

Warned of assassination plots against him, Lincoln shunned the use of bodyguards. He frequently rode alone at night, and was shot in August 1864. He escaped injury, though his stovepipe hat was later found holed by a musket ball.

Remoteness

For a man capable of working with politicians of many different views, Lincoln made few close friends. He allowed people to get only so close, being variously described as "not a social man by any means" and even "secretive."

MEN OF COLOR
To Arms! To Arms!
NOW OR NEVER
THREE YEARS' SERVICE!
BATTLES OF LIBERTY AND THE UNION
FAIL NOW, & OUR RACE IS DOOMED
SILENCE THE TONGUE OF CALUMNY
VALOR AND HEROISM
PORT HUDSON AND MILLIKEN'S BEND,
ARE FREEMEN LESS BRAVE THAN SLAVES
OUR LAST OPPORTUNITY HAS COME
MEN OF COLOR, BROTHERS AND FATHERS!
WE APPEAL TO YOU!
STRIKE NOW!



Lincoln finally found the general he wanted in Ulysses S. Grant, who later became president himself



A depiction of the confused fighting at the First Battle of Bull Run, the first large-scale confrontation of the war

Expert Opinion Was Lincoln the greatest US president ever?

LOUIS P. MASUR

LINCOLN'S
LAST SPEECH



Emancipation Proclamation And The War For Union, and The Civil War: A Concise History.

Louis P Masur is a distinguished professor of American studies and history at Rutgers University and the author of numerous books including *Lincoln's Last Speech: Wartime Reconstruction And The Crisis Of Reunion*, *Lincoln's Hundred Days: The*

Washington and Lincoln. One made the nation and the other saved it. For me, Lincoln is the greatest president not only for what he did - defend democracy, preserve the Union, issue the Emancipation Proclamation and lay the foundations for a modernising, industrial USA - but also for the qualities of leadership he exhibited. Lincoln was patient, deliberate, a shrewd judge of character, and most important of all willing to change his mind over time. "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present," he declared. With actions and words that continue to inspire, he led the nation through war to peace and set the framework for a "new birth of freedom." 150 years after his death, his legacy continues to bear fruit.

Confederate force led by General Jubal Early even launched an audacious attack on Washington, DC in July. They got close and caused panic in the capital. Lincoln sought to quell the panic by being a visible presence, facing down the crisis with visits to fortifications on the edge of the city. Observing some skirmishing from the parapet of Fort Stevens, he came under sniper fire until extolled to climb down, earning the distinction of being the only wartime commander-in-chief to be directly shot at by the enemy.

By that time, though, Lincoln had a general-in-chief he could rely on after he appointed Ulysses S Grant earlier in the year. Union strength finally began to show with crucial battlefield successes in August and September, turning the election tide in Lincoln's favour. He faced his sacked general, McClellan, for the Democrats, who were still split between those wanting a swift peace and pro-war moderates like McClellan himself. Lincoln triumphed emphatically.

A major policy plank of the Republican Party's re-election campaign was to amend the Constitution to permanently ban slavery across the country. Vindicated by his election victory, Lincoln moved swiftly to bring the Thirteenth Amendment into being. It took skilled political manoeuvring but Lincoln convinced the outgoing 38th Congress to give it bipartisan support, and the amendment was passed on 31 January 1865.

Unquestionably, however, Lincoln also wrestled with the issue of what effect freeing millions of black people would have on race relations in the nation. Part of his Preliminary Proclamation referred to voluntary colonisation abroad for those set free. This was dropped from the Final Proclamation, and Lincoln never spoke publicly about the issue again, leaving historians to debate his motives. Some suggest coupling freeing slaves with colonisation was a ploy to help sell emancipation to doubters. Others argue that, given Union ranks were set to be swelled by black recruits, he changed his view on the issue.

Both opinions essentially give the president a pass on the colonisation policy, but recent evidence has come to light suggesting he never fully abandoned it. In *Colonisation After Emancipation: Lincoln And The Movement For Black Resettlement*, authors Phillip Magness and Sebastian Page have discovered evidence that the



Private Edwin Francis Jemison came to represent child soldiers of the war

"The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just; it shall not deter me"

Speech to sub-committee, 1839

president was still attempting to make colonisation arrangements long after the Final Proclamation. Their research reveals that in addition to the colonies he hoped to set up in Panama, Haiti and Liberia, the president was in extensive secretive discussions with the British government

to find further suitable lands in the West Indies. The authors suggest that Lincoln was actively pursuing the policy far longer than has previously been acknowledged, potentially into 1865.

The idea of voluntary colonisation took shape in 1816 with the formation of the American Colonisation Society. Bluntly, the view was that as slaves had been stolen from abroad, once emancipated they should be humanely returned abroad. One of the society's founders was Henry Clay, leader of the Whig

party and a political hero of Lincoln's. Clay's views profoundly influenced the president's ideas, apparently to the extent that on the issue of colonisation, he appears never to have fully revised them.

In his defence, even the best of men are not immune from alighting upon the wrong answer, and nobody knew what a post-civil war, post-slavery USA would look like. Lincoln, seeking to avoid extensive racial disharmony and searching

for a way forward, thought consented colonisation might offer a solution. While a miscalculated, impractical and embarrassingly paternalistic solution in hindsight, everything else we know about him tells us he wouldn't have suggested it through malice.

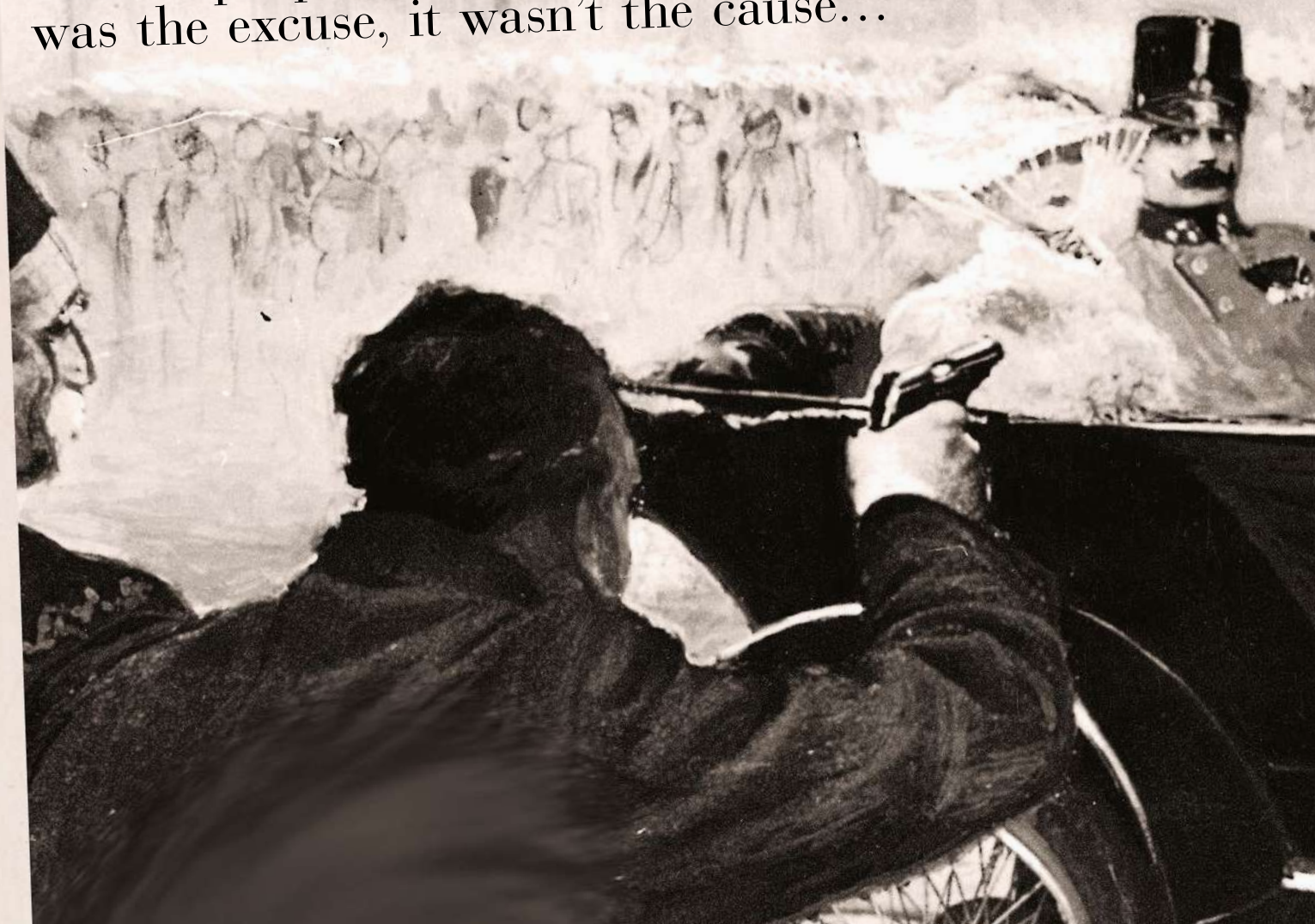
As events transpired, Lincoln never got to see post-civil war USA himself. Grant's tactics of attacking across a wide front created advances deep into Confederate territory. Once Atlanta fell to General Sherman in September 1864, he pushed on to the coast, slicing Georgia in two. The following April, after a nine-month campaign, Grant's army pierced Lee's resistance at Petersburg. The Confederate capital of Richmond fell soon after. His troops exhausted and heavily outnumbered, Lee had no option but to surrender on 9 April 1865. Five nights later, Lincoln visited Ford Theatre in Washington, where Confederate sympathiser John Wilkes Booth assassinated him with a single bullet to the head. By June, the last unit of Confederate troops had lain down their arms. The civil war was over, though the president who felt compelled to fight it was not alive to construct its peace.

28 June 1914

WHAT CAUSED THE

20 defining moments that

When Gavrilo Princip opened fire on Archduke Franz Ferdinand, he killed not just the heir to the Austrian throne, but sentenced to death over 9 million people over four years. But if assassination was the excuse, it wasn't the cause...



THE GREAT WAR?

led to World War I

DEFINING MOMENT

ASSASSINATION OF ARCHDUKE
FRANZ FERDINAND, 28 JUNE 1914

The catalyst for WWI, this event led to four years of global conflict that resulted in millions dead, and caused major political changes.



1 February 1864

PRINCE EDWARD NURSES A GRUDGE

British foreign policy is redefined after the Prussian invasion of Denmark

Prussia and Austria's devastating seizure of the ethnically mixed territories of Schleswig and Holstein, which separated Denmark from what is now Germany, shocked the young British Prince Edward - the future King Edward VII - who was only months into his marriage to Alexandra of Denmark. The pair openly supported the Danes in the conflict in spite of an increasingly pro-German Queen Victoria.

This conflict, the Second Schleswig War - coupled with his cold relationship with his mother - formed the bedrock of Edward VII's foreign policy, and he cultivated a staunchly pro-French and anti-German clique that would survive in government long after his death in 1910. Under Edward VII's influence, the Royal Navy was reformed and modernised to counter the growing German navy, and Britain's aloof isolation slipped away in favour of treaties with France and Russia that would one day become the Triple Entente, dragging the United Kingdom and its empire into war.



Prince Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1896



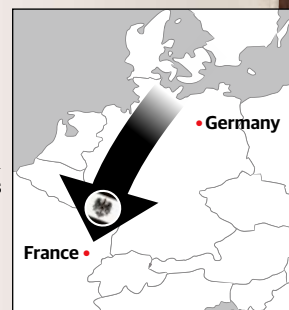
French soldiers in the Franco-Prussian War

19 July 1870

Germany unites at France's expense

Believing "a Franco-Prussian War must take place before a united Germany was formed", Otto von Bismarck goaded France into attacking. The French defeat brought down the Second French Empire of Napoleon III - the monarch was captured along with the remainder of his army - and a vast Prussian occupation of huge swathes of France until war reparations were paid.

This humiliation, along with the annexation of the valuable and heavily industrialised Alsace-Lorraine border region became a huge national tragedy. It remained at the heart of French culture in the run-up to World War I, as foreign affairs revolved around preparing for a new conflict with Germany, and public opinion called for the return of the lost provinces. In the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War, the North German Confederation was dissolved and replaced by a unified German Empire, led by Kaiser Wilhelm I and Chancellor Von Bismarck, while the French Third Republic formed in Paris.



8 February 1867

THE OLD EMPIRE CRASHES DOWN

The Austrian Empire is replaced by the Dual Monarchy

A dispute between the traditional guiding hand of the Germanic states - Austria, whose Habsburg family had ruled since 1278 - and the increasingly powerful Kingdom of Prussia - under Prime Minister Otto von Bismarck and King Wilhelm I - allowed the growing rivalry between the two powers to bubble to the surface in open war.

Left weakened and with Hungary set to break away, the Austrian Empire was dissolved in favour of a cumbersome Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary, in which each state was governed independently and then together by a convoluted system

of joint-ministers. This solution to Austria's internal instability in turn created a whole new set of stress points in the vast edifice, including Hungary's oppressive policies towards its non-Hungarian subjects, made them easy prey to Serb and Russian-sponsored agitation that would prove so toxic in Austrian-run Bosnia in 1914.

With Austria's traditional dependencies, the myriad small German principalities, now under the banner of one Prussian-dominated North German Confederation, Austria-Hungary had to look toward the Balkans and the waning Ottoman influence for opportunities to expand.

Prussian and Austrian cavalry face off at the Battle of Königgrätz, resulting in a decisive Prussian victory



20 March 1890

BISMARCK IS FORCED INTO RETIREMENT

German foreign policy turns belligerent as the Kaiser takes over

Though Otto von Bismarck's role in the birth of the German Empire and a renewed enmity with France left him with a reputation for belligerence, the 'Iron Chancellor' was a stabilising force for central Europe. He kept Germany back from the rush for colonies that would bring it into direct competition with other powers, declaring in 1876 that a war in the Balkans wouldn't be worth "the healthy bones of a single Pomeranian musketeer". He also signed the Reinsurance Treaty with Russia in 1887 that limited their involvement in conflicts with each other.

Wilhelm II succeeded his father, Kaiser Frederick III, with a very different set of priorities and the two clashed constantly, the toxic atmosphere in the court eventually forcing Bismarck to resign in 1890. His replacement - Leo von Caprivi - was far more in step with Wilhelm's vision, fatally letting the Reinsurance Treaty lapse - pushing Russia towards France - in favour of a friendship with Britain that would never come to fruition, leaving Germany isolated in Europe by 1914.



German chancellor Otto von Bismarck in the year he left office

10 July 1898

Britain and France size each other up

The scramble for Africa reached crisis point as France and Britain coveted control of the Nile to link up their African colonies. France especially felt threatened by Britain's occupation of Egypt in 1882 and quickly dispatched a small force to Fashoda (now Kodok in south Sudan) where the lines of both powers' empires intersected.

After a daring 14-month trek across Africa, the French force seized Fashoda on 10 July 1898, however reinforcements turned back, and a flotilla of British gunboats led by imperialism's posterboy, Horatio Herbert Kitchener, arrived at the isolated fort - both sides politely insisting on their right to be there, and rather nobly agreeing to fly British, French and Egyptian flags over the fort in compromise. At home, meanwhile, talk of war gripped both parliaments - only when it looked as

though victory would hinge on sea-power, putting the lighter, faster French fleet at the mercy of the heavier British one, did the French withdraw and an official boundary was agreed between the two powers.

The normalisation of British and French relations after the Fashoda Incident, and the clear demarcation of influence, relieved the constant pressure between the two to an extent, setting them off from hundreds of years of semi-regular bloodshed on a new course towards alliance.



French Captain Marchand at Fashoda in 1898

29 December 1895

Germany is warned off in southern Africa

Though the competing British and German interests around what is now South Africa had been a clear flashpoint for decades, the British Cape Colony's failed raid on the independent Transvaal Republic that would eventually lead to the Boer War - though unsanctioned by Britain - received the motherland's firm backing.

Kaiser Wilhelm II drafted a letter of congratulation to Boer president Paul Kruger that was celebrated by the German press and sparked outrage in its British counterparts. Germany's urbane ambassador to London was shocked when the Foreign Office's bullish Sir Francis Bertie informed him that wiping out the German navy would be "child's play for the English fleet".

Very much aware of their limitations, their political isolation and of Britain's overreaction, Wilhelm II resolved to increase the power of the German Imperial Navy and to treat Britain no longer just as a potential ally but also as a potential threat.



Transvaal president Paul Kruger in 1898

4 January 1894

FRANCE AND RUSSIA JOIN FORCES

France and Russia form a modern military alliance

A less likely love affair it would be difficult to imagine: democratic republican France and archaic autocratic imperial Russia cosy up despite public outcry in both countries.

France felt encircled by Britain and Germany who were enjoying a rare cosiness at this point, while likewise Russia saw itself threatened by the British Empire in central Asia, and the Far East, and by Germany's allies Austria-Hungary in Europe.

Where past treaties were agreements between governments designed to keep them from interfering in each other's business, this was primarily a military pact with a guaranteed military response if the other was attacked.

With no room for ambiguity, the Franco-Russian Alliance was the first of many that would bind the military powers of Europe together like mountain climbers, just waiting for one to fall and the rest to go tumbling after.



The Avenue Nicholas II in Paris, named in honour of the Franco-Russian Alliance

11 June 1903

THE BLACK HAND STRIKES

Austro-Serbian friendship dies with Serb king at hands of secret society

In a scandal that shocked all of Europe, Serbia's deeply unpopular and pro-Austrian king Alexander Obrenović and his wife were murdered by a cabal of army officers who forced their way into the palace and roused the royal couple from their hiding place.

Perpetrated by the Black Hand, a radical nationalist secret society dedicated to absorbing 'Serb' lands (whether Bosnian, Macedonians or Croats liked it or not) from the rule of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires, the Black Hand were already so entrenched in Serbia's powerful military that the new government refused all foreign diplomatic pressure to have them arrested for fear they'd be the next rulers to be brutally murdered. One of the key conspirators - Dragutin 'Apis' Dimitrijević - would



A depiction of the Serbian coup from an Italian newspaper

later become the leader of the Black Hand and Serbia's head of military intelligence - a powerful combination that would allow him to organise a failed attempt on the life of Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Josef in 1911, and a more successful and infamous attack on Franz Ferdinand three years later.

31 March 1905

THE KAISER PAYS A VISIT TO TANGIER

Germany's attempt to drive a wedge between Britain and France fails

Keen to test the extent of France and Britain's Entente Cordiale - signed 8 April 1904 and putting an end to colonial rivalry in Africa and Asia - Wilhelm II arrives in Tangier to deliver a speech in favour of Moroccan independence - much to the chagrin of France, who planned to take over Morocco as a protectorate.

The Kaiser expected to use the ensuing conference to resolve the situation as an opportunity to magnanimously grant France limited control, bringing them closer to Germany and isolating Britain, but to his surprise British foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, backed the French in the strongest possible terms, and it's Germany that, once again, came away isolated. The Tangier Crisis paved the way for the Agadir Crisis

in 1911, which despite higher stakes - a German gunship off the coast, and French and Spanish troop deployments on Morocco's streets - the German aims were the same, and so were the results: Franco-British military dependency increased, as did the French hold on Morocco and Germany's political encirclement.



A 19th-century French cartoon depicting Wilhelm's tense European relationships



A French illustration shows Austrian emperor Franz Josef tearing Bosnia from Turkey



6 October 1908

Austria takes Bosnia

Austro-Hungarian troops had been in the Ottoman province of Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1878 running it in all but name. In a series of letters and a six-hour secret meeting, Russian foreign minister, Alexander Izvolsky, and Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, Alois Aehrenthal, agreed a revision to the treaty of 1878, allowing Austria-Hungary full control of Bosnia. When the Austrians announced their intent Izvolsky acted as outraged as the rest of Europe's political movers and shakers (but not nearly as outraged as Serbia) and only when Vienna threatened to release secret records proving Izvolsky's duplicity did Russia back down and force Serbia to accept the annexation.

This affair prompted a shift in the direction of Serbian nationalism and public outrage that had so far been more preoccupied with Macedonia and Kosovo. Italy, meanwhile - part of the Triple Alliance with Austria-Hungary and Germany - had been long promised territory on the Croatian coast if Austria were to take Bosnia. Affronted, the Italian government would cite this breach of trust when they joined WWI on the side of the Triple Entente in 1915.

5 September 1905

Japan checks Russian colonialism

Imperial Russia's colonial ambitions in Asia finally overreached themselves, and the Japanese launched a devastating night attack on 8 February 1904 against the fleet anchored at Port Arthur (now Lüshunkou).

This blow to Russia not only brought the Tsarist autocracy to the brink with the Revolution of 1905, but forced Russia to look to the west to expand its influence. The factions in the imperial court fixated on increasing Russia's influence over the Slavic and Orthodox Christian nationalities were strengthened, and foreign policy became increasingly fixated on Bulgaria and Serbia especially. The desire to gain control over the Turkish Straits which would allow the Russian fleet in the Black Sea access to the Mediterranean also grew.

Japanese cavalry crossing the Yalu River into Russian-held Manchuria



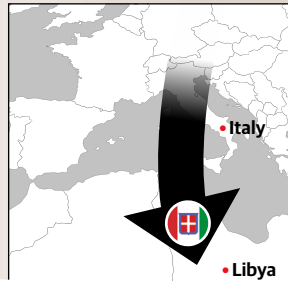
29 September 1911

ITALY STARTS A FEEDING FRENZY

Italy invades Libya and kicks off the First Balkan War

Though Britain and France had carved off Egypt and Morocco from the fringes of the Ottoman Empire, Italy's sudden invasion of Libya - one of the empire's central provinces - stunned the world. The superior technology of the Italians and their use of air reconnaissance saw them quickly take key cities before becoming bogged down in guerrilla warfare and counterattacks, while the brutal naval assault on the Dodecanese - the southernmost Greek islands - bloodied the Turks and forced them on the defensive.

While it kicked off a chain reaction (goaded on by the Russian ambassador to Belgrade) in the Balkans that led to the First Balkan War, the Italian seizure of Libya demonstrated a shift in Italy's foreign relations away from its traditional allies. Rather than consult its Triple Alliance partners Germany and Austria-Hungary - both invested in the integrity of the Ottoman Empire - they cleared the campaign with France and Britain beforehand instead.



Italian artillery near Tripoli, Libya, in 1911

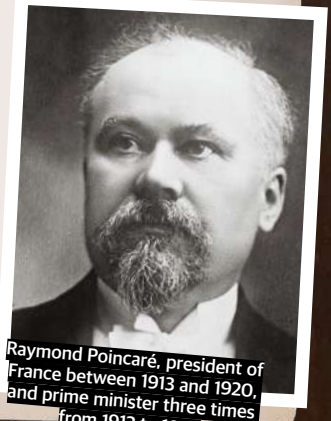
21 January 1912

France votes 'oui' for nationalism

Voted in on a wave of nationalism following the Agadir Crisis in July 1911, hardline anti-German prime minister Raymond Poincaré presided over a lurch to the right. Made president the following year he consolidated control of foreign policy and the Higher Council of War, and dispatched veteran statesman Théophile Delcassé - dubbed "the most dangerous man for Germany in France" by Wilhelm II - as ambassador to Russia to better co-ordinate Franco-Russian military strategy.

As Poincaré's government prepared for war he also made it more likely, telling Russian ambassador, Alexander Izvolsky, that any conflict with Austria-Hungary arising from the First Balkan War would have France's backing.

The hawks in the French government calculated that not only would a war over the Balkans be the surest guarantee that Russia would commit all of its forces to the field, but an Austro-Hungarian invasion of Serbia would bog down the Dual Monarchy, leaving the allies free to tackle Germany.



Raymond Poincaré, president of France between 1913 and 1920, and prime minister three times from 1912 to 1929

12 February 1912

ANGLO-GERMAN ARMS TALKS SINK

Negotiations for a cap on boat building are rejected

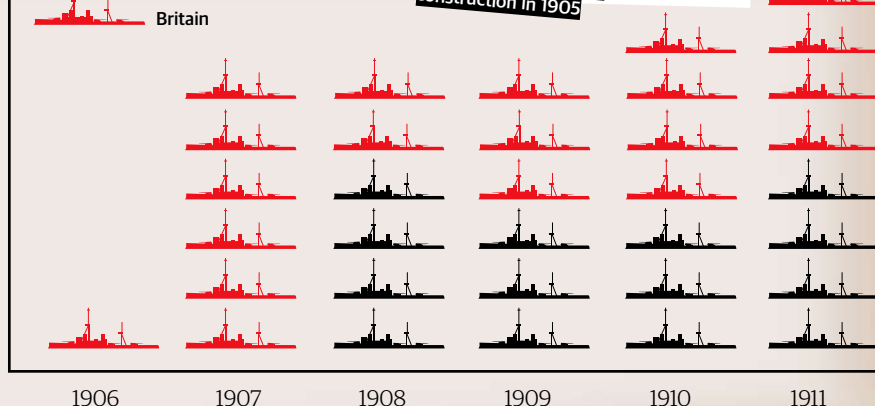
With both powers exhausted by boat-building fever that had formed the backbone of Britain's national self-esteem and the key German status as its equal, the war secretary, Richard Haldane, paid a secret visit to Berlin to try and halt the escalation.

The balance of national egos was simply too fragile. Germany wanted a guarantee of British neutrality in any future conflict, and Britain saw its own naval superiority as something they didn't have magnanimously gifted by Germany in exchange.

As a result, Haldane returned empty handed, the naval buildup continued unabated and, more importantly, Germany pushed Britain further into a military death-grip with Russia and France.

THE NAVAL ARMS RACE

Battle cruisers built per year



HMS Dreadnought under construction in 1905

30 September 1912

RUSSIA FLEXES ITS MILITARY MUSCLE

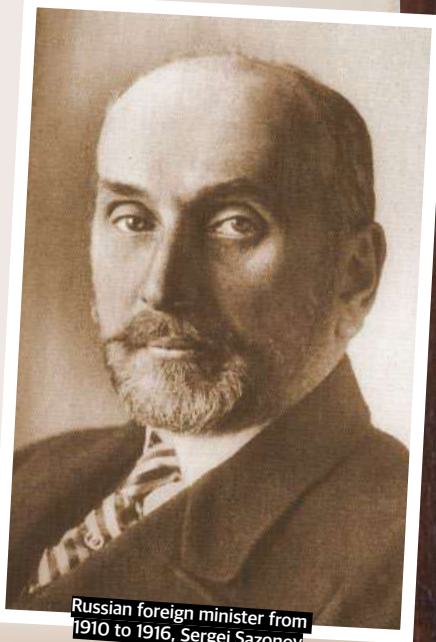
As the First Balkan War gets underway, Russia points its guns towards Austria

With the Balkan League of Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Montenegro gearing up to snatch territory from the Ottoman Turks in the wake of Italy's invasion of Ottoman-held Libya the year before, their great protector - Russia - made its stance clear.

If Austria-Hungary was alarmed by this potential shakeup of the borders, the rapid mobilisation of 50,000-60,000 Russian reservists along the Polish border with Austria-Hungary alarmed them more.

This was the first major aggressive move by Russia against its rivals, breaking with the tradition of covert deal-breaking that would foreshadow the events of 1914, and the robust defence of Serbia that would swallow much of the planet in war.

Russian foreign minister, Sergei Sazonov, observed that were it to come to conflict, "We can probably rely on the real support of France and England."



Russian foreign minister from 1910 to 1916, Sergei Sazonov

14 December 1913

Constantinople looks to Germany

Russia's lust for the Turkish Straits may have been pushed to second place during the Balkan wars, but they hadn't lost sight of their long-term goal. The arrival of Otto Liman von Sanders' German military mission on 14 December 1913 to train and command the first corps of the Ottoman army following humiliating Turkish defeats in the Balkans gave them even greater cause for concern than the presence of a British admiral doing the same job with the Ottoman navy.

Though Germany compromised heavily to keep the diplomatic crisis from boiling over (which in turn left the Germans with a sense of resentment), Russia's lack of backing from even the ardently anti-German Delcassé was a potent reminder to Russia that, despite the Triple Entente, its allies had very different priorities.

Viewing for the first time Germany, and not just Austria-Hungary, as a direct threat to Russia's aims, they realised that the only way they could gain control of the Turkish Straits would be against the backdrop of a wider European war, in which France and especially Britain were bound to Russia.



Liman von Sanders pictured with his Ottoman staff officers in 1914

17 October 1913

SERBIA DIGS IN OVER ALBANIA

The success of the Balkan League in the First Balkan War alarmed Austria-Hungary no end. Now the Second Balkan War had begun, with each combatant eager to consolidate its gains. Serbia - the chief cause of their anxiety - had won crushing victories in Macedonia and then marched into Albania and Kosovo to hold vast swathes of territory. Reports of massacres followed, and even rumours that the Austro-Hungarian consul in Prizren, Kosovo, had been abducted and castrated.

Alternately claiming ignorance of any occupation and then lying about withdrawal, Austria-Hungary grew convinced that Serbia couldn't be bargained with and would only respond to force. On 17 October 1913, Austria-Hungary gave Serbia eight days to leave the contested territory or they would face military action, and Russia advised them to do as they were told. By 26 October Albania was free of Serbian troops and the success of the Albanian ultimatum - and the demonstration of a clear limit to Russia's support - would lead Vienna to try and repeat the performance in 1914, with very different consequences.



Serbian soldiers in Macedonia during the Second Balkan War

The Second Balkan War teaches Austria the value of brute force

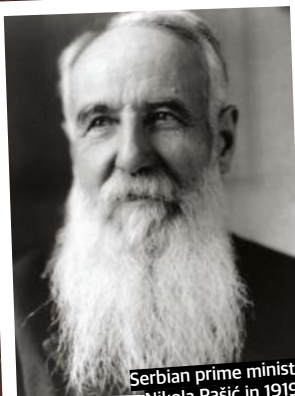
21 June 1914

SERBIA ISSUES AN OPAQUE WARNING

Serbian prime minister fails to warn of plot against Franz Ferdinand

In June 1914, the Serbian prime minister, Nikola Pašić, sent a telegram to the Serbian legation in Vienna warning of a plot against Franz Ferdinand. Belgrade's man in Vienna, Jovan Jovanović, then met with the Austro-Hungarian finance minister on 21 June 1914 to warn in the vaguest terms that a visit by the Archduke could end in tragedy. That Pašić didn't communicate the threat directly to the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister,

instead choosing the ultra-nationalist Jovanović - who is rumoured to have commanded guerrilla bands in Bosnia after annexation - who could be relied upon to tell someone further from decision making and probably tell them as unconvincingly as possible, suggests that this might have been a warning Pašić felt he needed to be seen to issue, but didn't necessarily want to be heard.



Serbian prime minister Nikola Pašić in 1919

28 June 1914

Ferdinand is assassinated

On 28 June 1914 the Archduke Franz Ferdinand - nephew and heir to Emperor Franz Josef of Austria-Hungary - along with his wife - Duchess Sophie - were shot and killed while inspecting the troops in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo. The man pulling the trigger was radicalised Bosnian-Serb student, Gavrilo Princip - an assassin from the secret military society, the Black Hand, which was equipped and supported by conspirators within the Serbian army.

Though unpopular, the Archduke's death provided all the pretext the Habsburg court needed to curtail the belligerent Serbia. Beyond

the excuse it provided, Franz Ferdinand was the leader of a think-tank within the Austro-Hungarian military that advocated reorganising the empire along federal lines.

A more representative Austria-Hungary could have silenced demands for independence from the Slavic communities in the empire - many of whom were still relatively loyal to Franz Josef himself, just critical of the state - loosening Serbia's influence in Croatia and Bosnia. It also would have undermined Russia's self-proclaimed mission to 'protect' the Slavic and Orthodox Christian people. But it was never to be.



Gavrilo Princip arrested by Austro-Hungarian police shortly after the shooting

23 July 1914

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY DECLARES WAR!

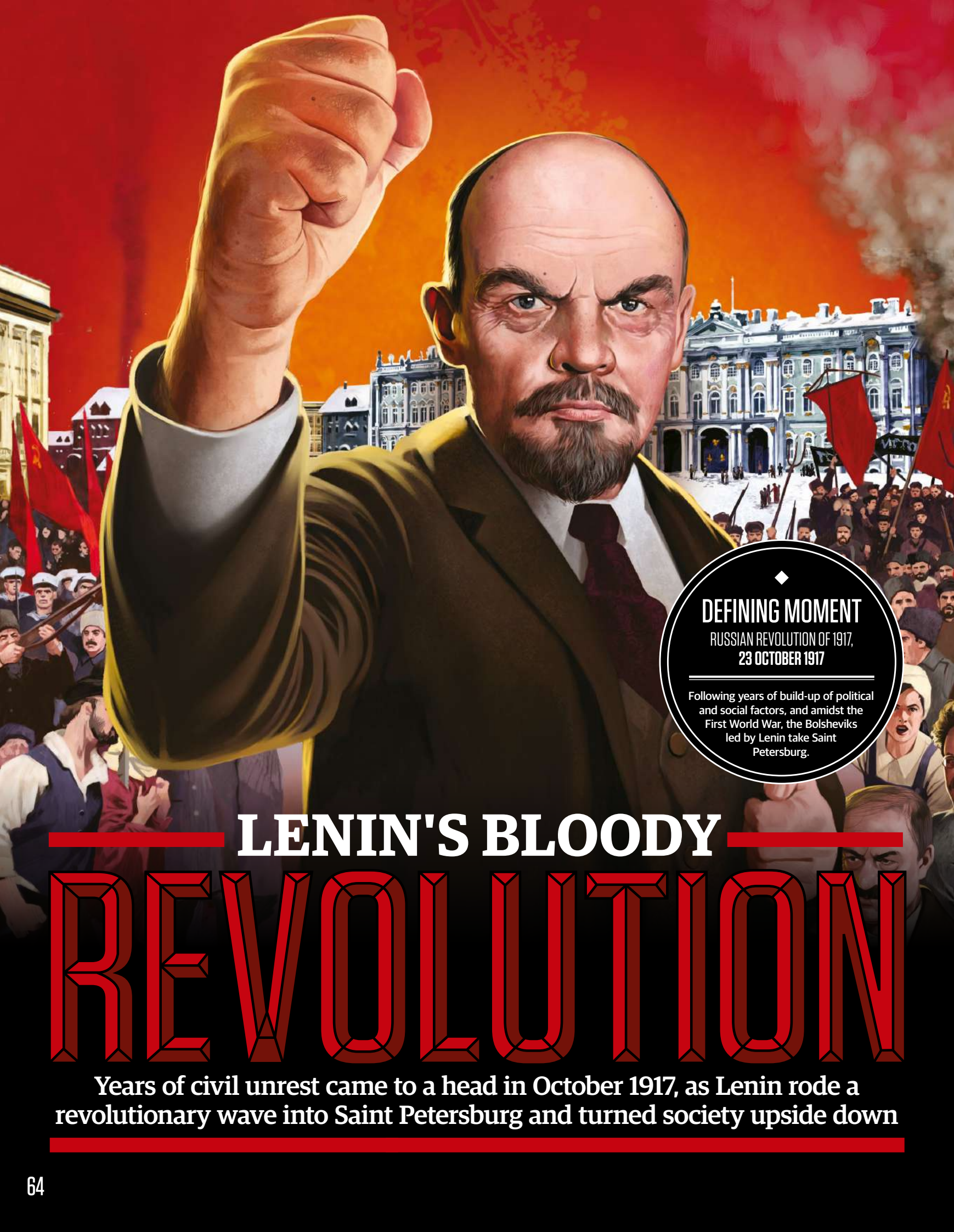
Political alliances lead to domino-effect war

Concerned that public opinion would not back war, the Austro-Hungarian government - champing at the bit to knock the Balkan upstart down a peg or two since 1912 - prepared an ultimatum that would be near impossible for Serbia to accept. Wilhelm II in Berlin voiced his support for Austria-Hungary, advising the German ambassador to Vienna, "We must finish with the Serbs, quickly.

Now or never!" Indeed the conditions were too humiliating for Serbia to agree to and, on 28 July 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Like a chain of dominos tumbling in succession Russia, Germany, France, Britain and all their overseas dominions were plunged into war. Italy, the Ottoman Empire, Japan and eventually the US would follow, as World War I progressed.



German trenches on the Aisne River during World War I



◆
DEFINING MOMENT

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION OF 1917,
23 OCTOBER 1917

Following years of build-up of political and social factors, and amidst the First World War, the Bolsheviks led by Lenin take Saint Petersburg.

LENIN'S BLOODY REVOLUTION

Years of civil unrest came to a head in October 1917, as Lenin rode a revolutionary wave into Saint Petersburg and turned society upside down

THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION

May 1896

Nicholas II is crowned tsar, making clear he'll continue the autocratic rule of Alexander III.

July 1903

The Russian Social Democrat party splits into two factions: the Bolsheviks, under Lenin, and the Mensheviks.

January 1905

Tsarist troops open fire on demonstrators in Saint Petersburg, causing widespread strikes. June sees a mutiny aboard Battleship Potemkin.

October 1905

Nicholas II ends the unrest by promising increased civil liberties for the proletariat. The Duma is formed.

July 1914

At the outbreak of war, Nicholas II assumes control of the Russian Army. His family come under the damaging influence of Rasputin.

February 1917

Protests turn to riots in Saint Petersburg. The city falls to insurgents; the Duma collapses into chaos.

March-April 1917

Nicholas II abdicates and the Provisional Government forms. Lenin returns and sets up a base in Saint Petersburg.

July 1917

Alexander Kerensky becomes prime minister of the government, but it remains largely powerless, lacking legitimisation.

October 1917

Bolsheviks take Saint Petersburg and storm the Winter Palace. Lenin controls Russia.

November 1917

In elections, the Bolsheviks lose. Clever politicking from Lenin sees his party hold onto and consolidate power.



Members of the Red Guard in October 1917

Guns roared, thousands of voices yelled from the streets in defiance, and on 23 October 1917, the massed supporters of Vladimir Lenin laid siege to Saint Petersburg's Winter Palace, the site of an ineffectual government, and the capstone event of a socialist revolution. For Lenin and his troops it was both a political and an ideological victory: the triumphant end to years of secretive theorising and plotting, many of them spent by Lenin in exile, before he returned to Russia to "liberate" his people. If the celebrations were short lived, the inversion of society to replace an autocracy with a socialist system was an extraordinary achievement.

Russia, even as late as the late-1800s, had seen a nobility of about a million presiding over a peasantry of 97 million; according to an 1897 census there was practically no middle class. Industry was overwhelmingly agricultural, with the peasantry working on land that belonged to the rich minority. An act of 1861 turned some of this land over to communal peasant ownership, but the government had provided compensation to the landowners, and the peasant communes were now responsible for the repayment of this debt to the government. These payments were abolished in 1905, but until then, the peasants were as beholden to their communes as they had been to the landowners. The population was also steadily increasing, which meant there wasn't enough land to go around, leading to unrest. The oil and railway industry booms of the industrial revolution happened slower and later in Russia than in other parts of Europe, but when they arrived they started to create a growing middle class more inclined towards western-style capitalist business interests than had hitherto been the Russian norm. Workers migrated to industrial areas, but while some official monitoring nominally took place, the overcrowded slum conditions workers had to endure were appalling.

Russia at this time was presided over by the tsar, whose rule was propped up by the army, the police, the Russian Orthodox Church, the land-owning nobility and

the bureaucracy. Alexander II (1855-81) had brought in some reforms, such as elective assemblies to represent peasant agricultural and industrial workers in local government. Alexander III (1881-94), however, began to roll back these changes, and Nicholas II, the last tsar of Russia, disappointed many by sticking to that hard line. He considered any notion of societal reform "a senseless dream" and let it be known that he was resolutely committed to the principle of autocracy.

As early as the 1860s various seeds of revolutionary thought were beginning to be sown. Movements like The Populists began musing on a future moving away from a monolithic state and more towards a country with a multiplicity of mutually supportive communes.

These idealistic notions hit something of a bump when students from the universities started taking the message out into the countryside and found the peasant agricultural labourers actually hostile to their ideas: thinking the students' well-intentioned notions ridiculous, lofty and unachievable. Populism was abandoned, and in its place, the ideas of a political analyst called Karl Marx began to find favour.

Marx was often frustrated at the way his followers simplified his complex writings and ran with them in directions he didn't approve of, but the key idea of his that

people latched on to revolved around the control of the means of production. History, Marx believed, was a never-ending process of change in which particular social classes exploited the labour of everyone else and established dominance, only for their hegemony to become outmoded, after which they were naturally replaced by another up-and-coming class drawing power from unanticipated sources. They in turn would eventually be replaced for the same reasons, and so the cycle would continue.

By this process, the bourgeois (the middle class) in Russia would, according to the theory, replace the aristocracy, and only once that had happened would the proletariat (the working class) supersede the bourgeois in their own revolution. Rather than leaving these predicted


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Trudoviks - 10 seats

The Labour Group or 'Trudoviks' were a breakaway from the Socialist Revolutionaries, since the SR had refused to participate in the Duma. They were a moderate socialist party (the name 'Trudovik' meaning 'labour') that grew out of small worker collectives.

Bolsheviks - 15 seats

Lenin's faction of the Russian Social Democratic Party was committed to the overthrow of the Tsarist autocracy and the redistribution of power to the proletariat. Unlike the Mensheviks, the Bolsheviks still believed that a small ruling elite was necessary.

Progressists - 41 seats

The Progressive Party consisted of moderate liberals who believed the time was right for the bourgeois, not the proletariat, to assume control of Russia. Two of the party's prominent members would go on to be part of the Provisional Government.

The Duma was instituted to represent the voices of working people in 1905. As Lenin launched his revolution, its seats were occupied as follows:

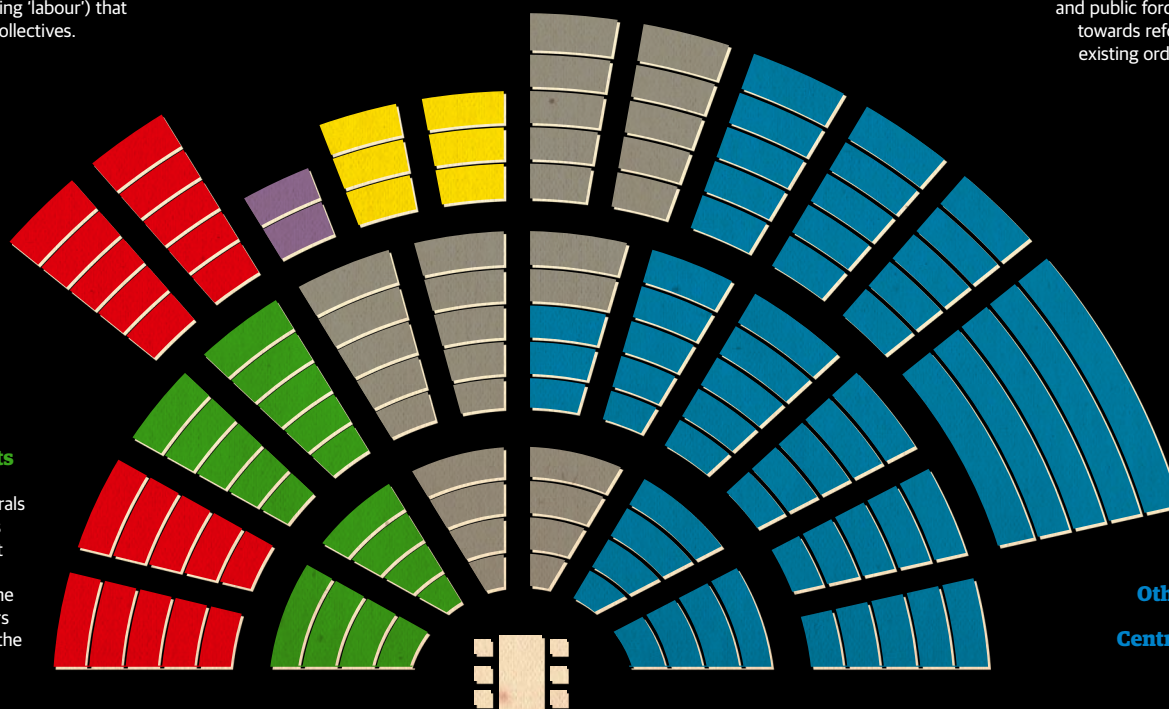
Octobrists - 95 seats

The Union of October 17 was a non-revolutionary conservative liberal party looking for compromise and co-operation between the government and public forces. They were working towards reforms to strengthen the existing order, not to overthrow it.

Constitutional Democratic Party - 57 seats

Informally known as the 'Kadets', the Constitutional Democratic Party were liberals who had the support of professionals and academics. They were committed to workers' rights, through policies like the introduction of the eight-hour working day.

Others (Non-Russian National Groups, Centrists, Nationalists, Rightists) - 230



THE STATE DUMA

events to work themselves out in their own time, however, various groups intent on forcing the process started to come into existence. The Social Revolutionary movement grew out of Populism, still intent on establishing a vast mass of worker cooperatives. But the Russian Social Democrats were the ones that really ran with Marx's theories. Finding that they couldn't quite agree even among themselves, the Social Democrats soon split into two factions: the Bolsheviks (meaning 'the men of the majority') and the Mensheviks (meaning 'the men of the minority'). The key figure of the Mensheviks was Julius Tserba, who would come to be known as Martov. Central to Bolshevism was Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, later better known as Lenin. Martov believed in a grass-roots democracy where everyone had an equal voice. Lenin insisted on the necessity of a small intellectual elite controlling the revolution.

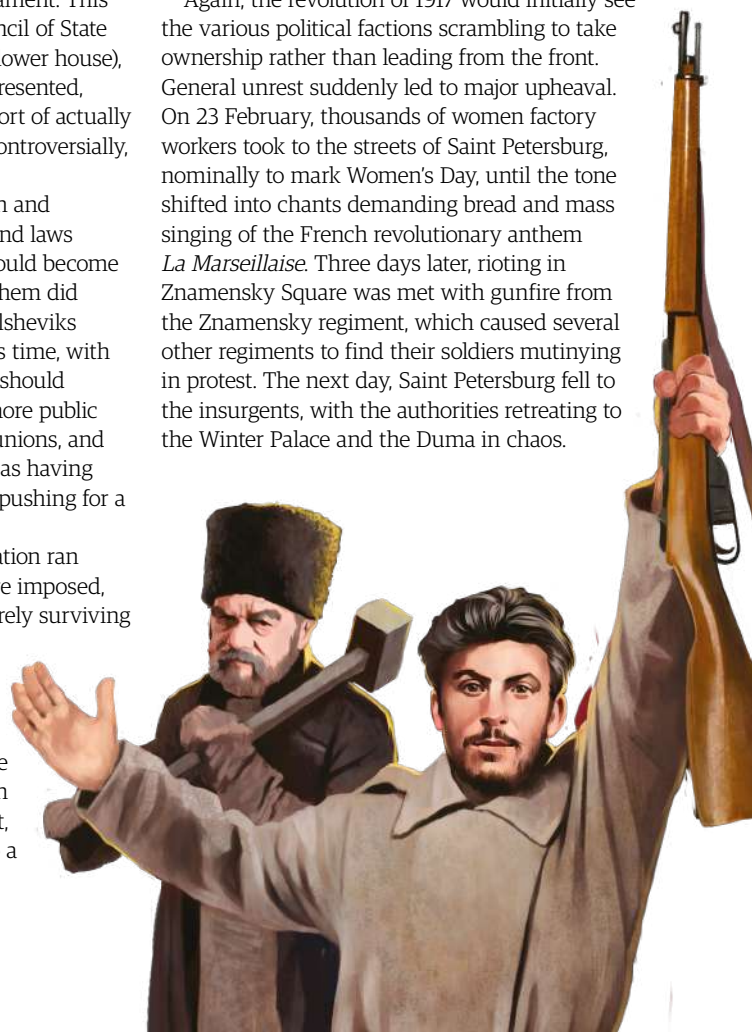
As it turned out, revolution first broke out organically in 1905 without either of them being directly responsible. On 9 January, a union of factory workers demonstrated outside the Winter Palace in Saint Petersburg and were fired on by the military, resulting in more than 100 deaths. A general strike followed; several officials were assassinated, including Tsar Nicholas II's uncle Grand Duke Sergei, the governor-general of Moscow; peasant revolts broke out in various provinces; and the crew of the Battleship Potemkin mutinied. Tsar Nicholas was persuaded into the

concession of forming a national parliament. This was divided into two houses, the Council of State (the upper house) and the Duma (the lower house), which would give the proletariat a represented, elected voice. But Nicholas stopped short of actually giving the Duma any power: its role, controversially, was to be purely consultative.

Some reforms were achieved. Health and education systems were put in place and laws were changed so that the peasantry could become landowners if they so chose - half of them did so by 1915. In-fighting between the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks continued during this time, with the former positing the idea that they should swap their underground status for a more public relationship with the now-legal trade unions, and the latter, viewing the bourgeois class as having been weakened by recent events, still pushing for a full proletarian overhaul of society.

Then, in 1914, came war, where inflation ran rampant in Russia, crippling taxes were imposed, and the peasantry were reduced to barely surviving at a level of subsistence farming. The Mensheviks largely supported Russia defending itself against Germany. The more radical Bolsheviks, fronted by the vocal Lenin, advocated flipping the situation into a civil war of the Russian proletariat against its own government, which, if successful, would evolve into a revolutionary war across Europe.

Again, the revolution of 1917 would initially see the various political factions scrambling to take ownership rather than leading from the front. General unrest suddenly led to major upheaval. On 23 February, thousands of women factory workers took to the streets of Saint Petersburg, nominally to mark Women's Day, until the tone shifted into chants demanding bread and mass singing of the French revolutionary anthem *La Marseillaise*. Three days later, rioting in Znamensky Square was met with gunfire from the Znamensky regiment, which caused several other regiments to find their soldiers mutinying in protest. The next day, Saint Petersburg fell to the insurgents, with the authorities retreating to the Winter Palace and the Duma in chaos.



— KEY — FIGURES

BOLSHEVIKS

Vladimir Lenin

Leader of the Bolsheviks

The revolutionary thinker and politician steered Russia to communist revolution and was its premier from 1917 until his death from a stroke in 1924, aged 53. His body lay in state for four days and was viewed by almost a million mourners.

Leon Trotsky

Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee

Initially a Menshevik, Trotsky joined the Bolsheviks for the 1917 revolution and was instrumental in its success. He was later expelled from the Communist Party and exiled for his opposition to Stalin. He was assassinated in 1940.

Joseph Stalin

Member of the Central Committee

A minor player in the 1917 revolution, Stalin rose through Bolshevik ranks until he took leadership following Lenin's death. His rule turned Russia into an industrial power, but he was also responsible for the deaths of millions in the Gulags.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Prince Georgy Lvov

Minister President/Minister of the Interior

The first post-imperial prime minister of Russia, Lvov was the first head of the Provisional Government following Nicholas II's abdication. A veteran of the Duma, he failed to garner much support and ultimately resigned after four months.

Alexander Kerensky

Minister of Justice/Minister of War and Navy/ Minister President

The Trudovik Kerensky took over the Provisional Government in July 1917. Unpopular with the military, he was deposed by the revolution. He fled and remained in exile until his death in 1970.

Viktor Chernov

Minister of Agriculture

One of the founding members of the Russian Socialist-Revolutionaries, Chernov was a formidable political analyst – some called him the “brain” of the party. Following the Bolsheviks' seizure of power he, like Kerensky, fled to Europe.

“ELECTIONS WERE PROMISED AND THEN POSTPONED, BUT BEFORE THEY COULD HAPPEN, THE BOLSHEVIKS SEIZED POWER”

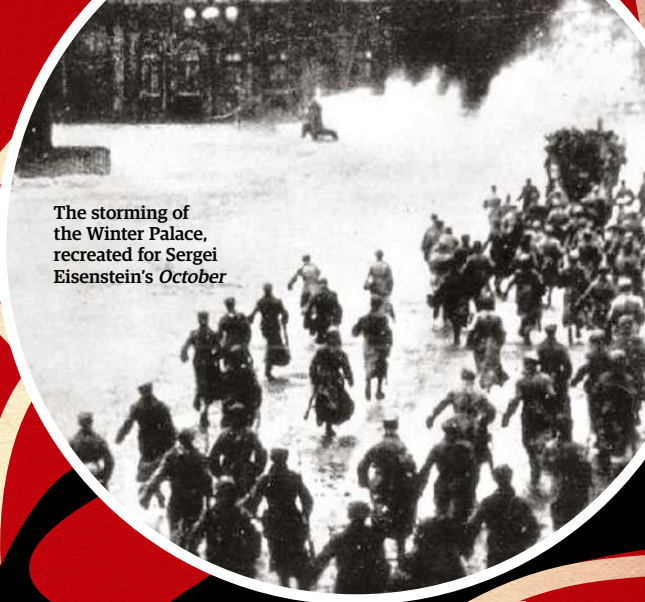
Lenin speaking at the Tauride Palace in 1917

The Provisional Government in Petrograd, 1917

THE OCTOBER UPRISING

On 24 October 1917, Lenin's Red Guard stormed the streets of Petrograd, taking over several strategic points

The storming of the Winter Palace, recreated for Sergei Eisenstein's *October*



Aurora

Anchored on Saint Petersburg's Bolshaya Neva River, the cruiser Aurora was the ship from which the revolutionary troops fired blank shots at the Winter Palace, terrorising the people inside.

Bridges

As a city on a river, Saint Petersburg's bridges were more key strategic points for the Red Guard, limiting access and exit.

PALACE BRIDGE

Winter Palace

The final site to fall in the October revolution. The storming of the Winter Palace became the abiding image of the Bolshevik victory.

GREAT NEVA

Central Telegraph

Like the post office, control of the Telegraph was of significant use to the Bolsheviks and the Red Guard, cutting off the opposition from any means of summoning help or reinforcement.

Main post office

A key point for controlling communications, the post office was one of several similar sites seized by the Red Guard during the night of 23 October.

Mariinsky Palace

The home of Nicholas II's State Council of Imperial Russia, State Chancellery and Soviet of Ministers, the palace was given over to the Provisional Government in March 1917, and then to various Soviet ministries after October.



The post office was a priority target for the Bolsheviks during the revolution

Lenin's bloody revolution

VYBORG DISTRICT

Tauride Palace

Home of the Petrograd Soviet (the City Council of Saint Petersburg, which was called Petrograd until 1924). The Soviet was established after the February revolution as a rival power to the Provisional Government. Several of its members – including Trotsky – were instrumental during the October revolution.

NEVA

Hotel Astoria

Hand-to-hand fighting between the Tsarists and the Bolsheviks outside the Hotel Astoria was so intense that the pavements bore bloodstains the next day. Several of the revolutionary leadership took up residence there, and Lenin gave a famous address from its balcony in 1919.

Smolny

As Lenin's base in Saint Petersburg during October 1917, this is where the leader and his government worked. Lenin also lived here with his wife until the seat of power was moved to capital city Moscow in 1918.

Railway lines/stations

Yet another strategic target for the Red Guard, placing rail transport and stations under revolutionary control. Part of the Saint Petersburg to Hiitola line was blown up a year later in 1918 by Finnish troops to prevent supplies reaching their Soviet enemies.

Tsar Nicholas, long the figurehead for the people's dissatisfaction – it didn't help that his household had come under the malign influence of notorious monk Rasputin while Nicholas had been fighting in World War I – abdicated, ending the Romanov dynasty with extraordinary suddenness. Russia unanimously rejoiced, and in the civil conflicts that followed, no party or faction even suggested the monarchy's revival. "The country had so radically vomited up the monarchy that it could not ever crawl down the people's throat again," wrote the Social Democrat Leon Trotsky.

The celebrations were short lived. A Provisional Government was formed, but while the very word 'provisional' was intended to make clear its temporary nature, it struggled to keep order: not least because, having not been elected, the people were resistant to the idea that it wielded any authority. It also continued to fight in World War I, which obviously remained an unpopular policy at home. Elections were promised for September and then postponed until November, but before they could happen, the Bolsheviks seized power.

Despite his devotion to his homeland and his passion for its political struggles, Lenin had actually spent the bulk of the previous two decades away from Russia. Exiled to Siberia for three years in 1897, afterwards he spent itinerant periods in Munich, London, Paris, Sweden, Switzerland and Finland, among other places, all the time keeping a close eye on events at home and keeping up correspondence with his revolutionary comrades all over Europe. The unrest in February 1917 made him desperate to return to Russia from his current base in Switzerland, but the fact that World War I was raging around him made that journey problematic. Various adventurous routes were discussed, but the eventual solution was an ad-hoc exchange of Russian exiles for Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war. The Russian Provisional Government dragged their heels over the deal, presumably not sure they wanted Lenin back at all, so the impatient communists did the deal with Germany themselves. Lenin arrived to a triumphant reception at the Finland Station in Saint Petersburg in April 1917.

For Lenin, the timing was urgent. Over the next six months he deluged his Bolshevik Central Committee colleagues with arguments in favour of radical immediate action, and on 10 October, the decision to seize power was made, with an alliance of Lenin and former Menshevik Trotsky, now the chairman of the predominantly Bolshevik Petrograd Soviet (meaning 'council'), at its vanguard.

The night of 23 October gave the revolutionaries the excuse they needed for their assault on power,

Lenin masterminded the October Revolution from the Smolny Institute

SOVIET DECREEES

In the seven years following the revolution in 1917, the new government issued dozens of legislative acts. They were known as decrees



DECREE ON PEACE

The document proposing the immediate withdrawal of Russia from World War I: a key Bolshevik policy since before the revolution.



DECREE ON LAND

Again, a central Bolshevik policy made law: private property was to be abolished and landed estates redistributed among the peasantry.



DECREE SOCIALIST HOMELAND IS IN DANGER!

A call for peasant forces to mobilise in Russia's defence in the face of German advances. "Protect each position to the last drop of blood!" was the cry.



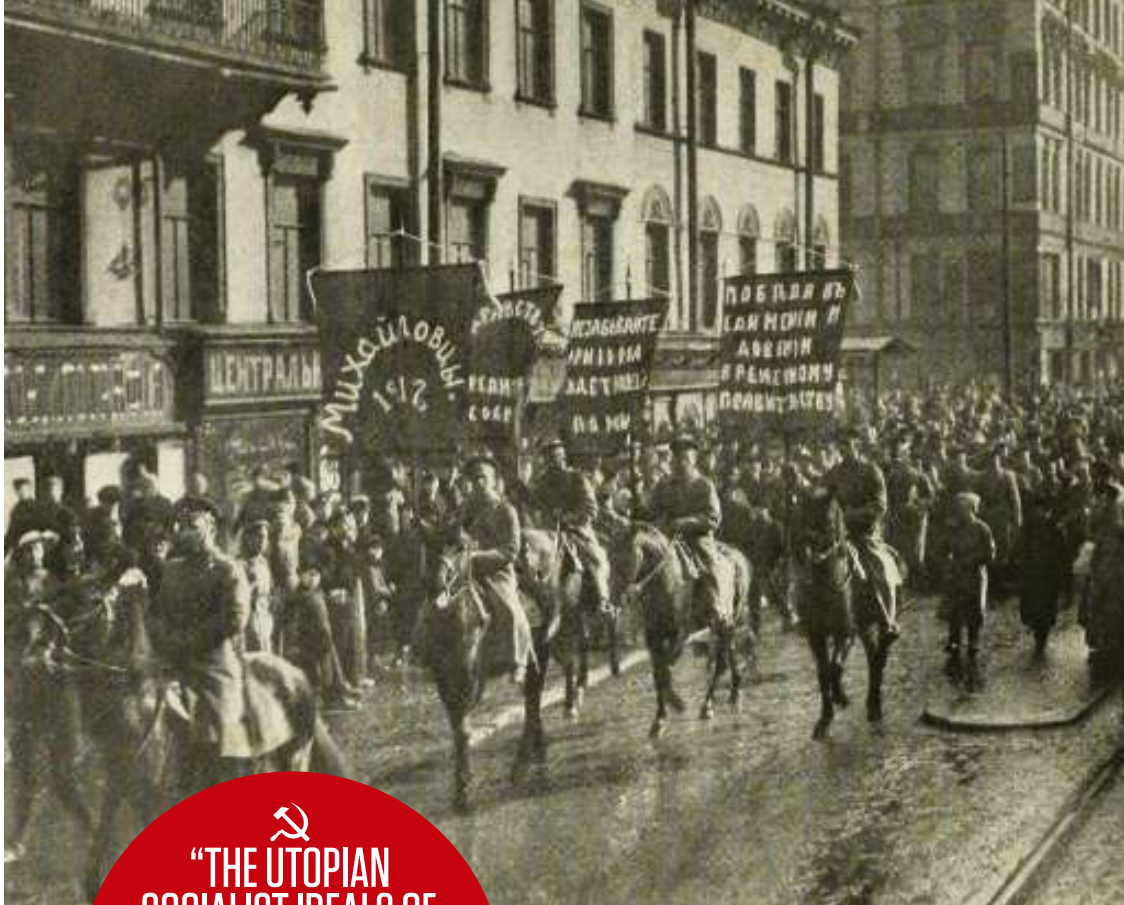
DECREE ON THE RED TERROR

An appeal for workers to crush any signs of counter-revolution against the Bolsheviks. "Anyone who dares to spread the slightest rumour against the Soviet regime will be arrested immediately..."

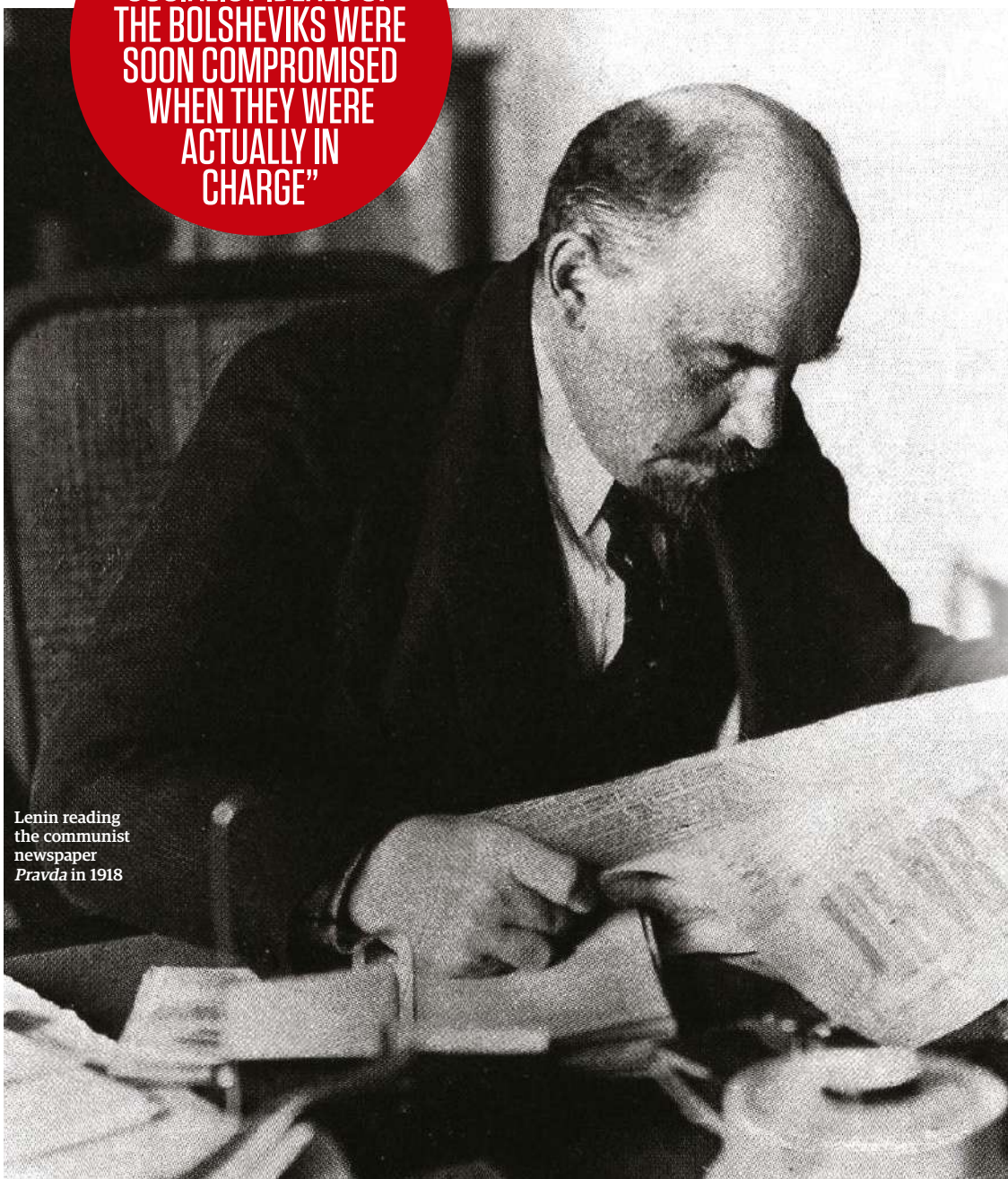


DECREE ON THE INTRODUCTION OF TIME MEASUREMENT ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL TIME ZONE SYSTEM

Russia changed from the 'Old Style' Gregorian Calendar to the 'New Style' Julian system of much of the rest of the world in 1919. There's a few days' difference, meaning the October Revolution actually took place in November.




"THE UTOPIAN
SOCIALIST IDEALS OF
THE BOLSHEVIKS WERE
SOON COMPROMISED
WHEN THEY WERE
ACTUALLY IN
CHARGE"



Lenin reading
the communist
newspaper
Pravda in 1918

Lenin's bloody revolution

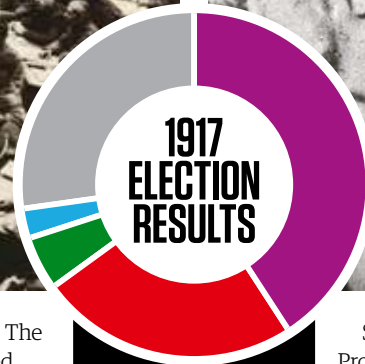
Собрание Советских Депутатов в Государственной Думе.



A session of the Petrograd Soviet in 1917



Nicholas II, not long after his abdication in 1917



when the Provisional Government, led by the moderate-socialist Alexander Kerensky, ordered the shutting down of the Bolshevik printing presses as a prelude to an attack on the Petrograd Military Revolutionary Committee. In retaliation, the Bolsheviks' armed bands of proletariat workers, known as the Red Guard, stormed strategic points such as bridges, railway stations, telephone exchanges, post offices, the national bank and the Tauride Palace. Kerensky fled, having been unable to muster counter-troops in time. By the morning, the only site that hadn't fallen to the revolutionaries was the Winter Palace, the headquarters of the Provisional Government.

The 'Storming of the Winter Palace' has gone down as a famously dramatic moment in history, but it was actually a much more scrappy affair than portrayals like Sergei Eisenstein's classic film *October* have suggested. The revolutionary military had planned to begin the assault using heavy artillery from the nearby Peter and Paul Fortress, but it turned out that the weapons there were rusty from disuse and wouldn't function. Soldiers brought up replacement cannons from elsewhere in the fortress, but then realised they didn't have

the right shells to fire from them. The signal to attack, it had been agreed, would come from a red lantern raised on a flagpole, but during the event, a red lantern couldn't be found, and the soldier sent to look for one got lost in the dark and fell into a bog. The lamp he eventually brought back couldn't be attached to the pole and wasn't red anyway. Nobody that eventually participated in the attack even saw it. This Pythonesque chaos dragged the Winter Palace's downfall out to a tortuous 15 hours, when a more organised force could probably have achieved it in far less time.

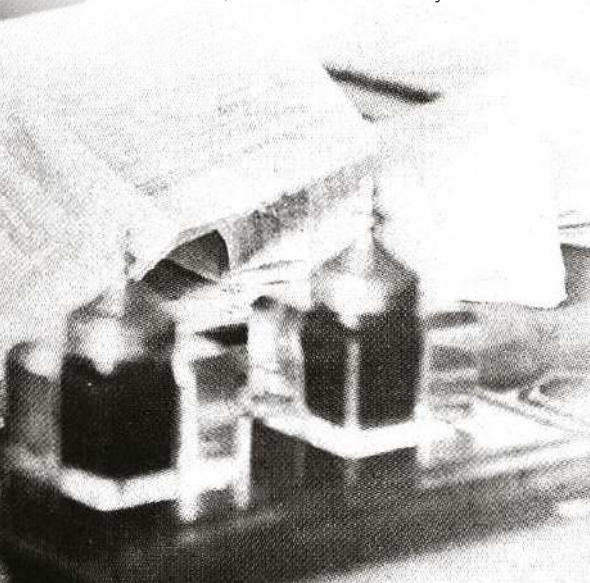
Luckily for the Bolshevik forces, the defence from within the Winter Palace was practically non-existent. The ministers inside were inexperienced in military matters, and the small number of troops defending them were becoming increasingly nervous the longer they waited for the Bolsheviks to breach the doors. Ammunition and food supplies for even a single evening were desperately low, and when the Bolsheviks began firing blank shots at the palace from the cruiser Aurora anchored on the Bolshaya Neva River, the soldiers mostly panicked and fled. Lenin appeared in public for the first time in months to proclaim that the Provisional Government had been overthrown, and that the time had finally come to "set about building a proletarian socialist state." The Bolshevik position was strengthened even further when the Mensheviks and the Social Revolutionaries walked out of the resultant talks, leaving Lenin and his comrades basically unopposed. "You are miserable bankrupts. You have played out your role," Trotsky said to those departing. "Go where you belong, into the dustbin of history."

Such had been the state of the Provisional Government that, as one commentator put it, the Bolsheviks did not so much seize power as pick it up from where it had been dropped. The revolution has been called a coup in some circles, but the word 'coup' implies taking power from a strong opponent, where the power that the Provisional Government actually wielded was debatable. Essentially, there had been nobody actually 'running' Russia for the months since the abdication of the Tsar.

Sadly, however, the utopian socialist ideals of the Bolsheviks were soon compromised when they were actually in charge, with Lenin forced into compromises like the crippling Brest-Litovsk peace treaty

with Germany, which lost Russia several of its provinces and deprived it of vast swathes of its agricultural and industrial resources. The Bolshevik ideology proved largely unworkable simply due to the practicalities of governance. Lenin ended up replacing one monolithic state with a different one, overruling the 'free' elections of November 1917 (in which the Socialist-Revolutionary Party won a significant majority of the votes) and announcing "the Dictatorship of the Proletariat" so that the Bolsheviks walked away with power anyway. Factional splits and civil war followed, as did the continuing oppression of the proletariat that Bolshevism had sought to liberate, the catastrophic famine of the 1930s and the horrific regime of the former Bolshevik Joseph Stalin.

The flurry of ideas that had led to the revolution had been, and for many is still, inspirational. The tragedy remains that the revolutionaries failed to live up to their own ideology.



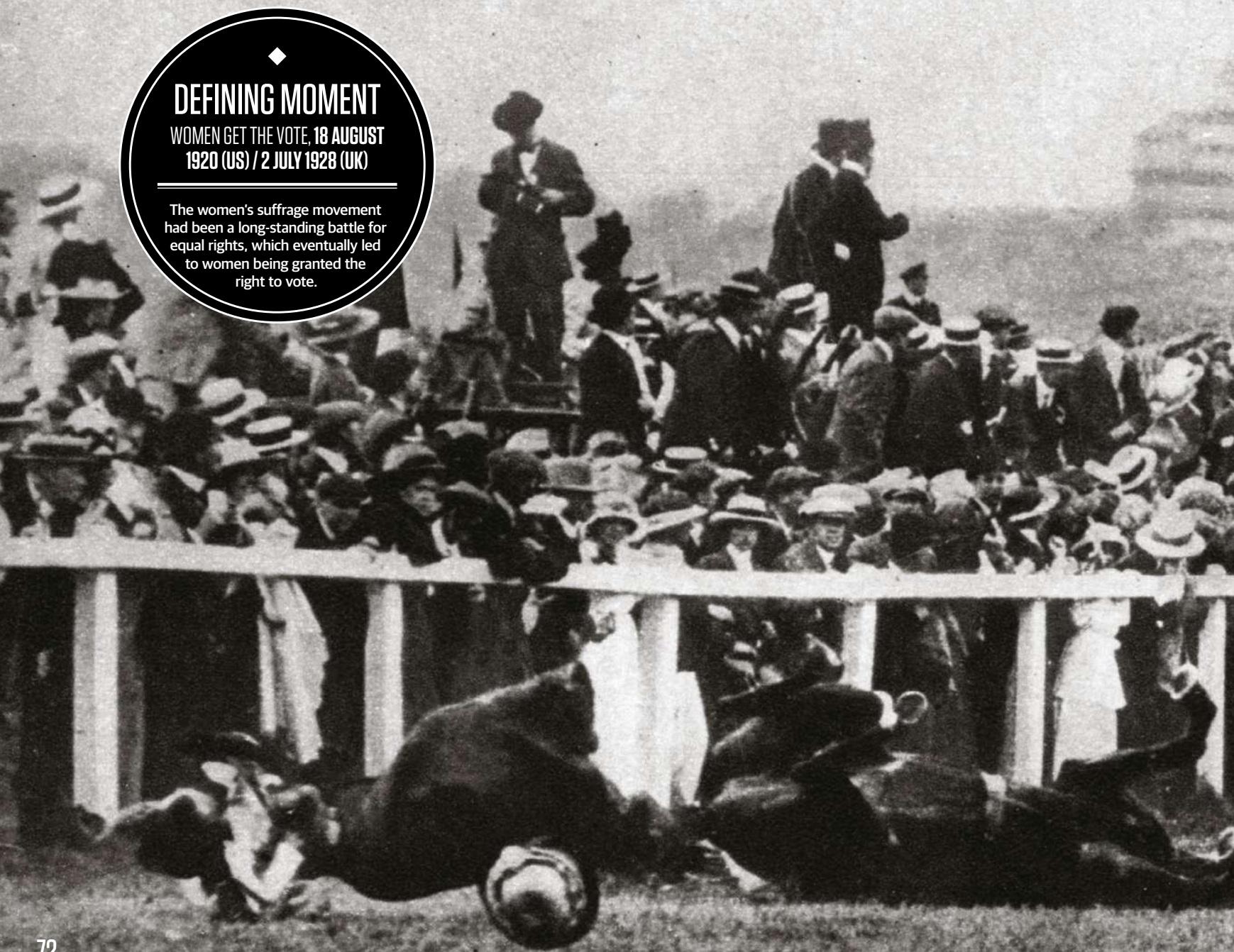
THE MILITANT BATTLE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

How the fight for women's rights evolved from peaceful demonstrations to increasingly violent actions as the suffragettes battled to be given a voice

DEFINING MOMENT

WOMEN GET THE VOTE, 18 AUGUST
1920 (US) / 2 JULY 1928 (UK)

The women's suffrage movement had been a long-standing battle for equal rights, which eventually led to women being granted the right to vote.



On 4 June 1913, the king's horse was at the Tattenham Corner of the Epsom Racecourse, third from last in the flat-sprint race. As it rounded the corner, its huge limbs pumping back and forth like a piston, a woman ducked under the spectators' barrier and darted onto the middle of the track, directly into the horse's path. Her name was Emily Wilding Davison and her death would be the latest outrage in an ever-more violent struggle for women's rights.

The actions of the lone suffragette would create totally opposed but equally emotional points of view. Newspapers vilified her and hate mail was sent to the hospital where she remained in a coma for four days before passing. Meanwhile, Christabel Pankhurst, living in Paris to avoid arrest, hailed Davison as, "a soldier fallen in a war of freedom." A tremendous funeral procession was arranged that used the religious-tinged language that Davison had so often used to describe her efforts. This was no ordinary struggle; this was a war, a crusade.

The fight for women's suffrage had begun decades before Davison became the movement's martyr. The issue had been first raised in Parliament to general disdain in 1832, but it had gathered momentum in the early years of the 20th century. Organisations sprang up all over the country, but

disapproval also accompanied the movement, with many women believing that these suffragettes were either going too far or were simply misguided. One of these women called Buckingham Palace home. In 1870, Queen Victoria wrote:

"The Queen is most anxious to enlist everyone who can speak or write to join in checking this mad wicked folly of 'Women's Rights', with all its attendant horrors, on which her poor sex is bent, forgetting every sense of womanly feeling and propriety - God created men and women different - then let them remain each in their own position - Woman would become the most hateful, heartless, and disgusting of human beings were she allowed to unsex herself; and where would be the protection which man was intended to give to the weaker sex?"

In spite of the Queen's anxiety, a united front was formed when the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) formed in 1897, with the formidable Millicent Garrett Fawcett at its head. Committed to peaceful protest, Fawcett worked tirelessly for decades at the head of the NUWSS. She began speaking on the subject of women's suffrage in the late 1860s and steadily rose to a position of authority. However, by the late 1880s there was a clear division between Fawcett and the woman who would



eventually lead the militant front: the equally as celebrated as notorious Emmeline Pankhurst.

Together with her daughters Christabel, Sylvia and Adela, Emmeline Pankhurst would be the driving force of the militant suffragettes, sometimes working in tandem with the more peaceful suffragists but often deeply opposed to them. Driven and relentless, her involvement with the suffragist movement began in the 1880s and she quickly graduated from hosting gatherings at her home to founding the Women's Franchise League in 1889. She and her husband Richard campaigned with the Independent Labour Party and After Richard's death in 1898 from stomach ulcers, Emmeline threw herself completely into the cause.

Emmeline Pankhurst was less concerned with hearts and minds than with grabbing the British people's attention by any means necessary. At first, she wanted to work with the Independent Labour Party (ILP), but it became clear the party was not willing to take the risks. This setback only made her more determined than ever, though, and on 10 October 1903 she created the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Their motto was "Deeds not words." Time would prove just how much to heart they took this motto.

First militant step

On 2 February 1904, Christabel Pankhurst entered the Free Trade Hall in Manchester where Liberal MP Winston Churchill was due to speak. When she asked for an amendment on women's suffrage, she was dismissed. Pankhurst wrote that

she considered this "The first militant step - the hardest to me, because it was the first." Churchill would be persistently targeted by the suffragettes, who went so far as to write a manifesto opposing him and his leadership. The man who would lead Europe to victory in WWII would prove to be a consistent thorn in their side.

Christabel Pankhurst would be as vital and fierce a part of the suffragette movement as her mother. She took her first militant step by attending another Free Trade Hall meeting in 1905, this time with her devoted fellow suffragette, the deceptively shy Annie Kenney. Pankhurst and Kenney were ejected from the meeting by an outraged crowd and arrested for assaulting police officers. They admitted the charge, explained their cause and refused to pay the fine. They were promptly sent to prison and the refusal to take any option other than imprisonment became a feature of successive suffragette trials. They demanded the same rights as political prisoners, specifically the first division cells, but were refused.

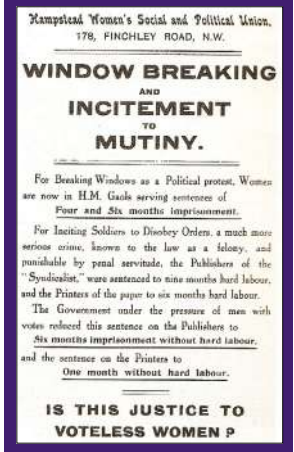
Nationwide activities were organised from the WSPU's headquarters in London, all aimed at creating a very public spectacle. In 1906, ten women were arrested after attempting to enter the Houses of Parliament. When the WSPU members were released from prison, Millicent Garrett Fawcett held a banquet in their honour at the Savoy Hotel. At this time, much of the WSPU and NUWSS' efforts were spent on demonstrating the sheer number of people who felt passionately about the issue.



Emmeline Pankhurst was a passionate leader of the women's rights movement

WHAT WAS THE WSPU?

- The Woman's Social and Political Union was founded at the Pankhurst home on 10 October 1903.
- It was founded to campaign for votes for women.
- Their repeated motto was "Deeds, not words."
- They initially tried to work within the political system.
- From 1905, they set out to shock with public displays.
- Their only concern was suffrage and not a broader campaign for rights, leading to splits in the group.



Demonstrations by British suffragettes regularly drew huge crowds



Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney with their famous campaign poster

LEADERS OF THE SUFFRAGETTES



Emmeline Pankhurst

15 July 1858 - 14 June 1928

After spending her youth attempting to open her own boutiques, Emmeline and her husband Richard became involved with the Labour Party. She grew frustrated with the lack of progress regarding women's suffrage and dedicated herself to the cause. She created the WSPU in 1903, backed by her daughters, and directed the group toward an increasingly militant strategy. She did not hesitate to distance herself from anyone who opposed her, including her own daughters. Despite her fragile health, she worked tirelessly and was imprisoned several times. When WWI broke out she redirected her attentions to the war effort. After the war she travelled to Canada but struggled financially, before returning to England where her health finally failed her.



Christabel Pankhurst

**22 September 1880 -
13 February 1958**

Christabel studied law in Manchester and used her expertise to great effect; issuing subpoenas for Lloyd George and Herbert Gladstone at her court appearances. Her views of women's suffrage were different to those of her sisters who had a more socialist outlook and eventually, she and her mother severed ties with them. A disguised Christabel fled to Paris to avoid arrest in 1912, but continued her role at the head of the WSPU and returned in 1914 to join her mother in the war effort. She moved to the United States and became an evangelist, briefly returning in the 1930s when she was appointed a Dame Commander of the British Empire.



Emily Wilding Davison

11 October 1872 - 8 June 1913

The youngest of nine children, she received a first class degree from Oxford but was dissatisfied with her life as a teacher, finding her calling as a member of the WSPU. From 1908 onward she threw herself into the increasingly militant activities, first imprisoned in 1909. She could be relied upon to take part in any of the group's more dangerous activities but was seen as a wild card. Her determination led to several well-publicised instances of brutality. By 1913 her health had begun to suffer from the hunger strikes and force feeding, and her family had begun to worry about her. While it is unclear whether or not Emily knew her plan for Epsom would kill her, she was determined to make history.

Millicent Garrett Fawcett

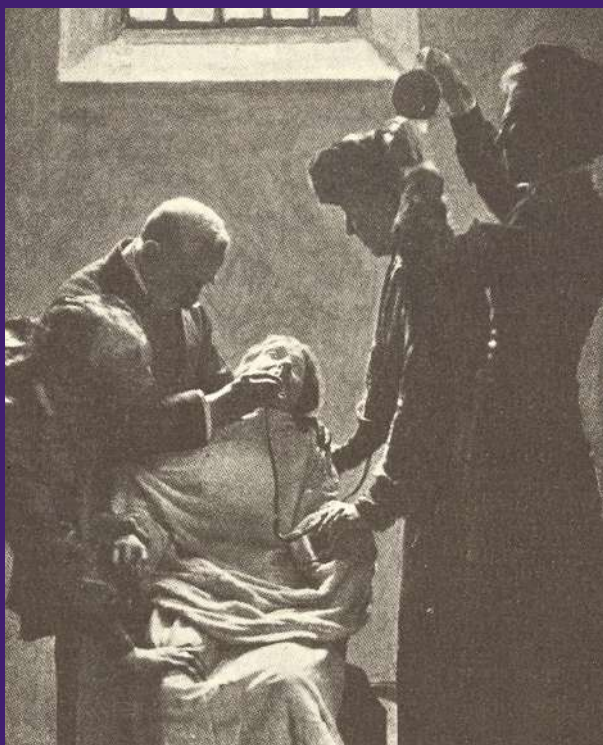
11 June 1847 - 5 August 1929

Fawcett believed in peaceful protest. She held lectures for women at her home and began speaking in public, although she was so nervous that she would get ill beforehand. Unlike Emmeline Pankhurst, her campaigning was not limited to suffrage and she was active in several other human-rights causes. As president of the NUWSS she was at first sympathetic to the militant WSPU. It was only when they became actively violent that she declared privately that they were doing more harm than good. When the war broke out she refused to support pacifist groups but continued her work with the suffragists.



HUNGER STRIKES

Hunger strikes began in 1909, when Marion Wallace Dunlop refused to eat after she was not treated as a political prisoner. She was released 91 hours later, but the practice of forcible feeding began soon after. The first case took place in September 1909 and quickly became common practice. The suffragettes protested this savage treatment and arrests, but forcible feeding continued. The sanitary conditions of the equipment used and the marked differences between the treatment of wealthy and poor suffragettes was controversial. The government initiated a cat-and-mouse law in 1913, which freed hunger-strike prisoners whose health was in danger, but brought them back to complete their sentences once they were deemed healthy enough. The practice continued until the outbreak of WWI.



Images such as this accompanied vivid personal accounts of forcible feeding from the suffragettes

When signed petitions had proved to accomplish little, marches and parades were organised, including the NUWSS' 'Mud March' in February 1907, in which over 3,000 women walked from Hyde Park to Exeter Hall. The government's response was to get these women off the streets and out of sight as quickly as possible, often with force. The brutal tactics used in response to peaceful demonstrations would stoke the fires of resentment.

Although Fawcett admired their zeal, Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst's unwavering belief in their own decisions meant that the WSPU was drifting further apart from the NUWSS. By 1907, she and Christabel announced that they would take sole leadership of the WSPU, causing a split in the party. When the departed members founded the Women's Freedom League, the cause of women's rights had another official organisation and there was a danger that the sheer number of groups would have a negative effect. The Pankhursts simply saw this as proof of their strife and issued a call to arms for the members who had remained with them. They were going to war.

Attacks and imprisonment

On 17 January 1908, London witnessed suffragettes chained to railings outside 10 Downing Street. The following day, Emmeline Pankhurst and Ellie Martel were savagely attacked by Liberal Party supporters who blamed them for a lost by-election. Pankhurst was thrown to the ground, surrounded by a crowd of furious men before being rescued by the police. She wrote: "Poor souls", I thought, then I said suddenly: 'Are none of you men?' In February, Christabel enacted a 'Trojan

WHAT WERE THE MOST MILITANT ACTIVITIES?



Glass smashing

In July 1909, suffragettes threw stones at the windows of 10 Downing Street to express their rage at the arrests following the rush on the House of Commons. By October, with the first forcible feedings taking place, organised window-smashing raids had begun. These displays fulfilled the early militant aims of bringing attention to their cause and to ensure a swift arrest. They also brought disapproval from more peacefully minded campaigners who felt this was vandalism and would do more harm than good.



Arson

Beginning with Emily Wilding Davison setting fire to a pillar-box in December 1911, unsanctioned by the Pankhursts, arson would go on to be one of the most striking methods of militant protest. Following Davison's death in 1913, arson attacks were carried out all over the country. Suffragettes such as Lillian Lenton would target empty buildings and warehouses, determined that no lives be put at risk but that the situation would become utterly impossible for the government.



Hatchet throwing

Prime Minister Herbert Asquith's visit to Dublin in July 1912 would be an eventful one. Mary Leigh (who had thrown stones at 10 Downing Street), Gladys Evans, Jennie Baines and Mabel Capper were found guilty of "having committed serious outrages", which included throwing a hatchet at Asquith's carriage and attempting to set fire to the Theatre Royal where he was due to speak. Evans and Leigh were sentenced to hard labour, which drew an outraged reaction from the WSPU. The condemned were defiant.

Horse' manoeuvre, with 20 suffragettes hiding in a van driven to the House of Commons before all jumping out to face the police. In 1908, the fearsome Flora Drummond led a team of suffragettes on a steamboat along the Thames to invite MPs sitting on the Palace of Westminster Terrace to the demonstration on 21 June. The demonstration saw 30,000 suffragettes take to the streets and drew 500,000 spectators.

The consequence of these public protests was imprisonment. As more and more suffragettes were put into prison, more controversy arose over their treatment. Lady Constance Lytton wrote of the terrible hygiene, including dirty clothes, vermin and a toilet pot emptied once a day. The prison governors denied any wrongdoing as vehemently as the suffragettes accused them of it. Emmeline Pankhurst herself was arrested twice in 1908. In February, she led 13 suffragettes to the House of Commons to defy the Tumultuous Petitions Act. She knew she would be arrested and her fragile health declined rapidly once inside. However, her determination was limitless. She was summoned to the Bow Street police station in October after publishing a pamphlet urging suffragettes to 'Rush the House Of Commons!' Rather than going straight there, she told the police that she would be busy until six o'clock the next day. When she and Flora Drummond took taxis to the Bow Street station, a Liberal MP sent a lavish dinner from the Savoy Hotel to the station for the pair.

Political prisoners?

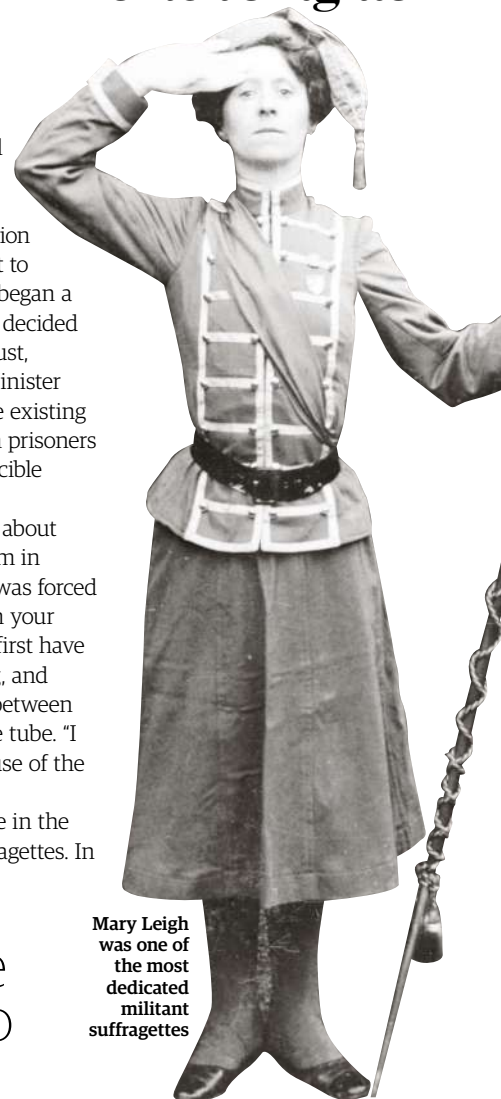
This civility was a rare exception, though. 1909 would see a radical change in the battleground as both sides refused to give any quarter. In July, a group of suffragettes threw stones

at the windows of the Home Office, the Privy Council and the Treasury. Arrested on 24 June for defacing the House of Commons, where she used a rubber stamp to print an excerpt from the Bill of Rights, Marion Wallace Dunlop was sent to prison. When her request to be treated as a political prisoner was denied, Dunlop began a hunger strike and, after 91 hours without food, it was decided she should be released for her own safety. On 13 August, Edward VII's private secretary sent a note to Prime Minister Asquith. "His Majesty would be glad to know why the existing methods which must obviously exist for dealing with prisoners who refuse nourishment, should not be adopted." Forcible feeding had effectively been ordered.

WSPU organiser Laura Ainsworth wrote to Dunlop about her own experiences of being force-fed in Birmingham in September of that year. She described how her head was forced back, her mouth forced open, and tube pushed "down your mouth about 18 inches; while this is being done you first have a very great tickling sensation, then a choking feeling, and then you feel quite stunned." A gag was then forced between her teeth, and "about a pint" of food poured down the tube. "I know I must have looked as if I was being hurt because of the wardresses' faces", wrote Ainsworth.

The practice of forcible feeding caused fierce debate in the press and became another rallying point for the suffragettes. In

"We have blown up the Chancellor of the Exchequer's house to wake him up"



Mary Leigh was one of the most dedicated militant suffragettes



Bombing Lloyd George's house

On 18 February 1912, the suffragettes' arson campaign led them to a house being built for David Lloyd George. Two bombs were set on timers in the empty house, one going off before the workers arrived that morning. The second remained unexploded. Emmeline Pankhurst took responsibility for the act, stating: "We have blown up the Chancellor of the Exchequer's house to wake him up." The police could not prove who planted the bombs, but sent Pankhurst to prison after she accepted responsibility.

WHEN DID WOMEN GET THE VOTE?

France 21 April 1944

Religion played a significant part in the struggle for women's suffrage in France, as right-wing politicians claimed that female activists could be swayed by the Catholic Church. Finally, in 1944, General De Gaulle's provisional government stated that "women are voters and eligible under the same conditions as men."

Finland 1906-1907

In 1906, Finland became the second country in the world to grant universal suffrage to its citizens. Only a year later, it became the first country in which women were elected to parliament.

New Zealand

19 September 1893
New Zealand granted women the right to vote following a petition a year earlier. The suffragist movement travelled the country collecting signatures, presenting the parliament with a bill of over 30,000, rolling it down the centre of the house.

USA

18 August 1920
After achieving women's suffrage in individual states, it would not be achieved in full until 1920 when the 19th Amendment was passed, written by Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

United Arab Emirates

December 2006
The right of some women to vote in the United Arab Emirates was granted in 2006 but suffrage is not universal. The right to vote is limited for both sexes, with only around 12 per cent of the nation able to vote.

Australia 1902

Following the unification of Australia's colonies in 1901, the federal parliament established universal suffrage. However, Australia would not achieve universal suffrage until 1962 when indigenous men and women were allowed to vote.

DAVISON'S CRUSADE

Conciliation Bill torpedoed

21 November 1911

Lloyd George puts paid to any hope of the Conciliation Bill passing by announcing that he has "torpedoed" it. The truce agreed to by the militant suffragettes is over.

Starting fires

15 December 1911

Emily Wilding Davison is arrested for putting a flaming piece of linen into a pillar-box. She had announced her plans and was waiting to be arrested.

WSPU heads arrested

5 March 1912

Following a protracted window smashing campaign, the government arrests the heads of the WSPU, including the Pethick-Lawrences and Emmeline Pankhurst. Christabel Pankhurst flees to France.

Davison attempts martyrdom

4 July 1912

During a commotion in Holloway Prison, a desperate Davison throws herself off a balcony – twice – in an attempt at martyrdom as "some desperate protest." She survives.

Reform Bill removed

January 1913

The Speaker of the House of Commons declares the Reform Bill will have to be removed and submitted in a new form. Pankhurst retaliates by declaring her plan for "guerillist" attacks.

House bomb

18 February 1913

Emmeline Pankhurst takes responsibility for the bombing of an empty house belonging to Lloyd George. She states that Emily Wilding Davison had planted it, but there is no evidence of this.

Cat-and-mouse law

2 April 1913

The government introduces a cruel new scheme to handle prisoners made dangerously ill by hunger striking and forcible feeding, releasing them until they are healthy enough to return.

Derby Day tragedy

4 June 1913

Emily Wilding Davison runs in front of the king's horse at Epsom and sustains terrible injuries. She dies four days later and becomes a martyr for the cause.

Funeral procession

14 June 1913

A funeral procession for Davison takes place in London, attended by thousands, before her body is taken home to Northumberland.



British suffragettes became increasingly visible in the years leading up to WWI



Emmeline Pankhurst being arrested in 1907 and, inserted, a picture of her in prison

"Emmeline Pankhurst was less concerned with hearts and minds than with grabbing the British people's attention by any means necessary"

a concerted effort to become more visible to the public and to ensure arrest, a glass-smashing campaign began. In October 1909, 12 suffragettes were arrested for smashing panes of glass in Newcastle and by November the imprisoned women were reporting incidents on the horrors of forcible feeding while in prison. It was splashed all over the front pages, but opinion was still divided.

In this combustible situation women like Emily Wilding Davison became notorious. Davison was one of the most dedicated of the militant suffragettes and prone to spontaneous action, and it was clear that even the Pankhursts endorsed her with a degree of caution. In Strangeways Prison in October 1909, Davison blocked the door to her cell, at which point the prison guards fired a fire hose at her through the window of her cell, after which she was force-fed in another example of institutionalised brutality.

Davison was just one of the many women who reported the violent treatment that they were put through. Lady Constance Lytton was determined to test the claim that there was no difference in the treatment of prisoners depending on their class. Having previously been arrested and deemed not healthy enough for forcible feeding on account of her heart,

she was arrested in disguise under the name of Jane Wharton. The prison doctor determined that 'Jane' was perfectly healthy and ready for forcible feeding. Her brother, Lord Lytton, wrote a letter to *The Times* newspaper detailing exactly what his sister had been through. It was embarrassing for the establishment, but not enough for the status quo to change.

In 1910, it looked like a solution might be near. The Conciliation Committee had been formed with the purpose of finding some middle ground under the guidance of Millicent Garrett Fawcett's NUWSS and the WSPU agreed to a truce. The Conciliation Bill passed two readings in the Commons but when Parliament broke down on 18 November with no progress on the bill, Emmeline Pankhurst made good on her promise to march on the House of Commons with 300 women. They were met by a violent police force; the unarmed suffragettes were punched, kicked, hurled to the ground and groped by officers. 200 women were arrested and two died as a result of injuries sustained, including Pankhurst's sister Mary Jane Clarke. Despite the national press coverage of this shocking brutality, Churchill refused to allow an investigation into it, describing the suffragettes' claims as "a copious fountain of mendacity."



In a surprising show of restraint, Pankhurst decided to keep the truce until the new Parliament was in session but when Lloyd George callously announced that he had 'torpedoed' the Conciliation Bill, militancy was not only back on, it had escalated. With broken windows and arson dominating the headlines, the NUWSS despaired at the negative publicity the WSPU was creating. It was also proving a problem for the Pankhursts. In May 1912, key WSPU leaders, including Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst, were charged with "conspiracy to incite certain persons to commit malicious damage to property." Christabel fled to France in disguise, while the others took their sentences.

There was an enormous outcry to transfer the suffragettes to political prisoners. The furore increased in July when Emily Wilding Davison attempted to kill herself by hurling herself from the stairs in the prison block during a 'siege.' Her idea was "that one big tragedy might save many others", but netting prevented her from achieving her goal.

Violence explodes

Later that month came the suffragette 'gunpowder plot' as four women attempted to set fire to the Theatre Royal following Lloyd George's visit. In a speech at the Royal Albert Hall on 17 October 1912, Emmeline compared the suffragettes to the rebellion forces in Ulster, declaring "Take me if you dare." Meanwhile, the NUWSS created ties with the Labour Party, which had become the first party to back women's suffrage. However, in January 1913 it was announced that the Reform Bill would have to be entered in a new form because it had changed so much from its original state. The WSPU commenced a new stage of its militancy and targeted the empty property of the wealthy for destruction. Explosives were left in empty houses, for which Emmeline Pankhurst took responsibility.

Noting that the health of force-fed inmates was quickly declining, the government enacted the so-called 'Cat-and-mouse' law. This meant that a prisoner who was being forcibly fed could be released if their health was a serious concern, but that they must return to prison as soon as they were deemed healthy enough to serve the rest of their sentence, to be put through the whole ordeal again. The shocking nature of this policy was widely protested but to no avail.

It was in June 1913 that Emily Wilding Davison threw herself in front of the king's horse at Epsom. The impact on both the suffragettes and their enemies was profound and the papers reported on 'The Suffragist Outrage at Epsom'.

The WSPU continued to shed members, as Christabel Pankhurst decided that her sister Sylvia, who had expressed disagreement with her views, could no longer be a part of the group. Their youngest sister Adela had already been forced out. However, it was clear that things could not go on. The WSPU membership was shrinking, either through desertion or incarceration, and it seemed as though no progress was being made. Then, on 28 July 1914, everything changed.

With the outbreak of the First World War, Emmeline and Christabel's goals suddenly shifted. They were determined to support Great Britain and ensured that members fought for their country as fiercely as they had for suffrage. The most vocal supporters of women's suffrage became some of the loudest war effort campaigners and they threw their support behind the war effort, with women working in jobs they had only shortly before been deemed unsuitable for. It might have taken something as dramatic as a world war, but when the time came for a vote on suffrage in 1918, the nation's opinion of the suffragettes had changed and women over the age of 30 got the right to vote. In 1928 the dreams of the suffragettes were realised when women finally received equal voting rights with men. Their voice had finally been heard.



The front-page headline when Emily Davison ran out at the Epsom Derby Day

Jones, Sir Mauger's jockey, was thrown from his mount and badly injured when he fell after his horse, Jones and the woman as it fell over the fence and into the water. The woman's clothing was 'torn' and 'she was found lying on the ground' (photograph).



© Alamy/Getty



HIT VER STA

OPERATION

◆ DEFINING MOMENT

OPERATION BARBAROSSA, 22 JUNE 1941

Hitler's audacious invasion of the Soviet Union is launched, marking the beginning of a brutal struggle in the deadliest theatre of World War II.

When World War II's totalitarian titans clashed, Eastern Europe turned red with blood and the Soviet Union was brought to the brink of collapse

STALIN

BARBAROSSA



A war of total annihilation was about to begin. The target of the Nazi wrath was the Soviet Union, the communist powerhouse that dominated from the Baltic Sea to the North Pacific. Since penning *Mein Kampf* in 1925, German dictator Adolf Hitler had made it his mission to supply the German people with the Lebensraum - living space - he believed they needed and end what he saw as the creeping evil of Bolshevism, the revolutionary creed that, as he saw it, threatened the fragile German republic of the 1920s. This wasn't just any military campaign - it was a clash between two mutually exclusive ideologies that viewed each other with absolute contempt, two totalitarian dictatorships that ruled through fear and demanded absolute, unthinking obedience, and two all-powerful monsters that commanded their war effort from the highest level. In the spring of 1941, Austrian failed artist Adolf Hitler would break his pact with Georgian bank robber Josef Stalin - and millions would pay for their arrogance.





Walther von Brauchitsch and Adolf Hitler oversee the victory parade of the Wehrmacht in Poland 1939

FROM THE BALTIC TO THE BLACK SEA

Contrary to popular myth, there was no single 'Blitzkrieg' doctrine in the German army - their successes of 1939 and 1940 were built on a mobile warfare doctrine developed after World War I, coupled with a strong professional officer corps and air superiority. By December 1940, though, Hitler had been seduced by his own propaganda. Convinced the USSR would crumble in the face of a knock-out blow, Führer Directive 21 outlined the plan of what was to become Operation Barbarossa - named for the Holy Roman Emperor who led the Third Crusade.

134 full-strength divisions were committed to the new front under Field Marshal Walther von Brauschitsch, spread over the continent from Memel in the north to Odessa in the south. The 1939 German-Soviet non-aggression pact that had carved up Eastern Europe for the two despots was torn up, and Hitler confidently predicted the invasion would take a mere ten weeks.

The tactical pre-emptive strike would be fought by the Ostheer on three fronts by Army Groups

North, South and Centre, and aimed to expel all Soviet forces behind the Arkhangelsk-Astrakhan (A-A) Line and take Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev. Army Group Centre, led by WWI veteran Field Marshal Fedor von Bock, would take the same route as Napoleon's ill-fated invasion of Russia 129 years prior. To ensure the Germans didn't suffer the same fate, General Friedrich Paulus was entrusted with undertaking a strategic survey of the attack zone. Paulus advised encirclement tactics to prevent the Red Army retreating and overstretching German supply lines, locking them into a costly guerrilla war in the Soviet interior.

Barbarossa was delayed by over a month as German forces experienced stiffer opposition than expected in the Balkans. The Yugoslavs in

particular put up fierce resistance and Hitler was forced to take over the Italian invasion of Greece. The delay could have given the Kremlin time to rally defences, but despite warnings, Stalin was convinced Hitler would not invade until Britain was firmly under German occupation. The Soviet leader was tipped off as early as December 1940, and was reminded of the threat in a message sent by Winston Churchill in April 1941. Stalin was given one final chance to mobilise his troops on 21 June 1941, the eve of Barbarossa. Wehrmacht Sergeant-Major Alfred Lishof, who had deserted his unit and been taken in by Soviet soldiers, claimed a German attack was imminent. Stalin rebuffed his warnings. He received a rude awakening the next day: the war for the east had begun.

"WE ONLY HAVE TO KICK IN THE DOOR AND THE WHOLE ROTTEN STRUCTURE WILL COME CRASHING DOWN"

HITLER'S PREDICTION FOR JUNE 1941

THE BLOODY PURSUIT OF LEBENSRAUM

How the Ostheer blazed a trail through the plains and cities of eastern Europe

4. Finnish assistance

10 July

While the Romanians plug away in the south, the Finnish army moves towards the Karelian Isthmus. In total, 300,000 Finnish soldiers join in the fight against the USSR.

1. The distant rumble of panzers

22 June

Barbarossa gets under way as German armoured divisions race east to deliver what they hope will be a knock-out blow to the unprepared Soviet forces.

5. Smolensk

16 July

Another important city on the road to Moscow is taken by the Germans. Resistance lasts in the city until 5 August. By 1 September, the frontline has extended as far as Leningrad in the north and the Crimea in the south.

7. Operation Typhoon

2 October

An all-out assault on Moscow begins after much deliberation in the Nazi hierarchy. The Germans manage to fight their way to the capital's suburbs but ultimately fail to take the city as winter sets in.

9. Winter takes hold

5 December

Horrendous weather conditions and fresh Soviet recruits take their toll on the exhausted Wehrmacht, which has no alternative but to turn back. Operation Barbarossa has failed in its objectives, however, eastern Europe has fallen under the shadow of the Greater German Reich.

3. More cities fall

3 July

The onslaught continues as Volkovysk and then Minsk are both taken as German forces encircle the Red Army and take 324,000 prisoners.

6. The taking of Kiev

16 September

The capital of the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic is the next settlement to fall as Soviet troops are trapped in a pocket east of the city. A month later, the Wehrmacht have advanced even further to Bryansk and Belgorod.

8. Siege of Sevastopol

16 November

Crimea falls into the hands of the Germans after a lengthy siege that eventually results in an Axis victory. The area will be used as a launch pad for the drive to the oil fields of the Caucasus in Operation Blue.

2. Romanian allies

22 June

It isn't just the Wehrmacht ploughing east as two allied Romanian armies press into Ukraine heading for the city of Odessa.

KEY

- GERMAN ADVANCE
- SOVIET COUNTERATTACK
- SURROUNDED SOVIET FORCES
- GERMAN TROOPS
- SOVIET TROOPS

HITLER'S ARMoured STORM

Steel helmet

The German Army's distinctive steel helmet, or Stahlhelm, was adopted during World War I and later modified numerous times. Its coal scuttle appearance came to symbolise Nazi brutality in Europe.

Mausser rifle

This German soldier carries the iconic bolt-action Mauser Karabiner 98 kurz, or K98k, firing a 7.92mm cartridge. The K98k was the standard-issue Wehrmacht infantry rifle during World War II.

Winter gear

This German soldier is fortunate to have an overcoat, heavy boots and gloves to protect against the Russian winter. Many German soldiers on the Eastern Front had only their summer uniforms.

Mess kit

The German soldier carried his mess kit and bread bag attached to Y-straps or D-ring loops on leather belts. As Barbarossa wore on, hot food was served less frequently in the field.

The ill-prepared Red Army and the fury of the oncoming assault was a lethal cocktail for the USSR. Stalin's purges of generals had put his forces at a severe disadvantage and the troops were growing weary of constant supervision by the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD). The Soviets may have had up to three times the number of tanks and aircraft as the Third Reich but they were widely dispersed across the vast country, lacked strong command and suffered from obsolete technology. The first major engagement of the Baltic front was the Battle of Raseiniai beginning on 23 June. The attack included a huge bombardment from both ground artillery and the Luftwaffe, which crippled Soviet airfields, seeing the Soviet Air Forces lose 25 per cent of its strength. Mechanised divisions covered up to 80 kilometres a day as the front went further eastwards, while the infantry was behind them, yomping 30 kilometres a day. Encircling the shell-shocked Soviets was paying off as pincer movements accounted for hundreds of thousands of prisoners of war. In early July, Bialystok and Minsk also fell as the Red Army retreated from Belarus to the banks of the Dnieper River. The Wehrmacht exerted technical and tactical dominance, with 750 German armoured vehicles crushing 3,500 Soviet armoured vehicles at the Battle of Brody between 23-30 June.

"WHAT INDIA WAS FOR ENGLAND THE TERRITORIES OF RUSSIA WILL BE FOR US... THE GERMAN COLONISTS OUGHT TO LIVE ON HANDSOME, SPACIOUS FARMS"

HITLER ON HIS PLANS FOR THE LEBENSRAUM



WEHRMACHT SOLDIER

The battle-hardened soldiers of the German Wehrmacht knew only victory until they invaded Soviet Russia

German troops enter Russia during the early stages of the invasion, June 1941





Axis infantry use a Flammenwerfer 41 to sweep a building clear of resistance

“BURNING VILLAGES, STARING BODIES OF FALLEN RUSSIAN SOLDIERS, SWOLLEN CARCASSES OF DEAD HORSES, RUSTING, BLACKENED AND BURNT OUT TANKS WERE THE SIGNS OF THE MARCH”

A GERMAN INFANTRYMAN DESCRIBES THE EARLY DAYS OF BARBAROSSA

July saw torrential rain drench the battlefields of eastern Europe. It was so severe that the free-roaming Ostheer had been stopped in its tracks and columns of troops tailed back tens of kilometres waiting for the sun to emerge from the clouds. This gave the beleaguered Red Army a chance to rediscover its composure. The reaction was a counterattack but the Wehrmacht stood firm, beating the Soviets back and advancing ever further towards Smolensk, which fell after a month of heavy fighting. The Germans were suffering substantial losses now but the Wehrmacht juggernaut just kept on coming. Stalin ordered a strict scorched-earth policy. All across the Eastern Front bridges were destroyed, railway lines were sabotaged and roads were demolished. Strong resistance was now a must as the Ostheer drew ever nearer to the cradle of Soviet power. Stalin didn't tolerate failure and General Dmitry Pavlov was duly executed for his failure to prevent the German advance. Now his commanders were much more hesitant to surrender or retreat. While Stalin was purging the Red Army from the top down, the Wehrmacht was busy pillaging the population of Minsk.

Winter uniform

Unlike his German adversary, the Red Army soldier was outfitted for winter warfare with a quilted coat and trousers, fur-lined gloves and thick boots that provided warmth in below-freezing temperatures.

DP-28 light machine gun

With its large drum magazine, the DP-28 light machine gun earned the nickname 'the record player'. Firing a 7.62mm round, it provided automatic weapons support at the squad level.



Winter headgear

Rather than wearing a heavy steel helmet, this Red Army soldier takes advantage of the warmth of a wool, fur-lined cap that offers protection for his ears against the bitter Russian winter.

Additional accoutrements

This Red Army soldier has placed his garrison cap inside his wide canvas belt, while additional equipment and ammunition for other weapons are carried in attached pouches.



RED ARMY SOLDIER

After suffering horrible losses, the resilient Red Army soldier proved more than a match for the Nazi invaders

THE HOLOCAUST IN THE EAST

As the front kept expanding, Hitler's vision for an ethnically 'pure' Lebensraum was beginning to be realised behind the lines. Following in the infantry's tracks was the Einsatzgruppen - paramilitary death squads under the command of the SS. They systematically murdered Jews, communist officials and intelligentsia, and Romani and Sinti Gypsies in mass shootings, public hangings and gas trucks, which used the exhaust emissions from motors to choke their victims. Concentration camps and ghettos were also established, and their inmates used as slave labour.

Some of the Wehrmacht command had misgivings but this didn't stop it, and many regular army units, police units, locally raised auxiliaries and fascist militia were complicit in the bloodletting. One of the largest of the mass murders was at Babi Yar on the outskirts of Kiev in September 1941. SS records report a total of 600,000 killed in 1941 alone and the terror outlasted Barbarossa with up to 2 million people being killed by the Einsatzgruppen between 1941 and 1944.

After the close of hostilities, 24 former Einsatzgruppen commanders were charged with crimes against humanity at the Einsatzgruppen Trial, from 1947-48. 14 received death sentences and two received life sentences. The others were given lesser sentences. The ultimate architects of the system, Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler and SS-Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich, both met justice - the former committed suicide in his prison cell while the latter was assassinated in Prague by Allied agents.

"PEOPLE ARE CRYING AND TALKING ABOUT THE NAZIS' HATRED OF JEWS AND COMMUNISTS... IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE INVADERS NO LONGER REGARD US AS HUMAN BEINGS AND BRAND US JUST LIKE CATTLE? ONE CAN NOT ACCEPT SUCH MEANNESS. BUT WHO DARES OPPOSE THEM?"

VILNA RESIDENT MACHA ROLNIKAS WRITING IN HER DIARY IN JUNE 1941

Main weapon

The T-34 medium tank was initially armed with a high-velocity 76.2mm cannon, later upgunned to an 85mm weapon.

Sloped armour

The sloped armour plating of the T-34 added to its protective qualities without increasing the thickness of the armour itself.

Secondary armament

For defence against enemy infantry, the T-34 mounted a pair of 7.62mm machine guns in the turret and hull.

Driver position

The driver steered the T-34 by pulling either of two tillers located on each side of his seat.

THE ADVANCE FALTERS

The first phase of Barbarossa was over and Hitler and his generals now had to make a judgement call. There were three possible routes that lay ahead: drive on to Moscow, venture north to conquer the birthplace of communism, Leningrad, or turn south and head for the USSR's breadbasket, Ukraine. Hitler, overruling his generals in the process, opted for the latter, reasoning that the oil fields of Baku and the Soviet industry hub at Kharkov were a priority. This would weaken the attacking thrust on Moscow, but the Führer, still completely convinced of his talent as a war leader, believed he knew best. The disagreements rumbled on for the majority of August, as valuable time to completely crush the Soviets was lost. This respite was just what the Red Army needed. By the middle of August, 200 fresh divisions had been brought west, and even if the Germans continued to outthink the Soviets, they would not outnumber them. Despite the oncoming numerical advantage,

the ensuing Battle of Kiev was the biggest defeat ever felt by the Red Army in history, and as the Germans took the Uman Pocket, things weren't getting better up north either. The symbolic city of Leningrad had been besieged from mid-September and 300 civilians were dying every day in the former Russian capital, where starvation had seen the population resort to eating cats, dogs and birds. There were even reports of cannibalism.



Cramped interior

The interior of the T-34 was not ergonomically ideal as its crew operated in cramped positions for extended periods.

Turret

The compact two-man turret of the early T-34 required the commander to aim the main gun, reducing combat efficiency.

Wide tracks

The T-34's wide tracks provided stability to the tank's chassis and improved cross-country performance, particularly in snow or muddy terrain.

Suspension system

American Walter Christie designed the suspension system of the T-34, which was common among Soviet tanks of World War II.

Engine

The T-34 was powered by a V-2-34 V-12 diesel engine generating 500 horsepower and a top speed of 53 kilometres per hour.



RED ARMY WORKHORSE

The Soviet T-34 is thought to be the most formidable tank of World War II

A German tank with a vehicle recognition drape during the Battle of Moscow



OPERATION TYPHOON

After the successes in both the north and south, it was time for the Ostheer to deliver the killing blow: Moscow. The assault got under way in October as Vyazma, a town 200 kilometres south of Moscow, was taken. The victories just kept coming as Kalinin and Bryansk also fell. Moscow was nearing.

In the city, the scene was one of panic. Two million people had fled the capital and the Soviet government had been relocated to Kuybyshev (now Samara) 800 kilometres to the east. One man who didn't quake in his boots was Georgy Zhukov. With Imperial Japan no longer posing a threat to the Soviet Far East - thanks in part to his critical victory at Khalkhin Gol in 1939 - he mobilised

900,000 recruits from the eastern military districts to combat the Germans in the west. The Ostheer were just 65 kilometres from the gates of Moscow and could see the light of anti-aircraft fire over the city, but they were unable to advance any further. The Soviet strategy was now to attack the energy-sapped and sleep-deprived Germans as much as possible, using the fresh troops, with adverse weather giving the Red Army plenty of time to regroup and consolidate its positions. Now a long way from Berlin, German intelligence began to falter. High Command severely underestimated the amount of troops the USSR could call on and

their prediction of 50 reserve Red Army divisions was woefully inadequate.

By mid-November, the Rasputitsa autumn rains had ceased and the muddy quagmire had hardened, allowing large-scale offensives to recommence. The Germans were now running through Moscow's suburbs and could see the sun glistening on the Kremlin. The heat of battle was fierce as the Red Army fought tooth and nail for the salvation of their capital. Something had to give, and it did, as the coldest winter for 140 years gripped the Soviet Union.

"FOR ALL MILITARY PURPOSES, SOVIET RUSSIA IS DONE WITH. THE BRITISH DREAM OF A TWO-FRONT WAR IS DEAD"

COMMANDER OF THE FIRST SS PANZER DIVISION, SEPP DIETRICH, 9 OCTOBER 1941



A Wehrmacht soldier keeps an eye out for unexpected Russian attacks

GENERAL FROST

The Soviets were prepared for the sub-zero temperatures, equipped with padded winter clothing and specialist units - including ski troops and sleds for transporting guns and artillery. The Germans, meanwhile, had nothing of the sort. Hitler's confidence of a swift victory meant that few of the soldiers had winter clothing to keep the frost at bay and the results were devastating. Guns jammed and gloved fingers struggled to work them loose, rations froze with stews turning to hunks of ice, engines seized up for want of antifreeze, and intense blizzards grounded the Luftwaffe. The frostbite was so bad that 14,000 soldiers had their limbs amputated and the Ostheer's supply train, which was overly dependent on horses, was crippled. The Red Army counterattack on 5 December hit hard as 88 Soviet

divisions ploughed into German lines over an 800-kilometre front.

This crushed the resolve of the already weary Germans but Hitler was not one to admit defeat and ordered von Bock to hold his ground. The decision was pigheaded at best and represented the Führer's overconfidence as a general. The Red Army advance initiated a series of losses for the Wehrmacht, enraging Hitler. Von Rundstedt, von Brauchitsch and von Bock were all relieved of their duties as Hitler shuffled his pack. Günther von Kluge was promoted to field marshal while Hitler himself took over as supreme commander. The changes didn't have the desired effect and a tactical retreat was ordered as the panzer divisions withdrew 322 kilometres west to the starting place of Operation Typhoon. Barbarossa had failed.

"THE WIND STABS YOU IN THE FACE WITH NEEDLES AND BLASTS THROUGH YOUR PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR AND YOUR GLOVES. YOUR EYES ARE STREAMING SO MUCH YOU CAN HARDLY SEE A THING"

WEHRMACHT GENERAL GOTTHARD HEINRICI ON THE HARSH CONDITIONS

THE LAKE LADOGA LIFELINE

Hitler coveted Leningrad as it was the symbolic centre of communism - the heart of the October Revolution of 1917 - and its successful invasion would be an ideological victory. Rail and land connections to the rest of the USSR were severed on 30 August as Nazi command decided to besiege the city. The only chance for Leningrad lay in Lake Ladoga, which was already providing a natural barrier, dividing German and Finnish co-belligerents. The lake froze over in November 1941 allowing lorries to transport supplies into the city, providing relief. The incoming resources from the ice road weren't enough to completely sustain the city but the natural highway helped keep the city alive until it was liberated in January 1944 after more than 900 days of siege.



For its citizens' immense bravery and stamina, Leningrad was named a hero city by the Soviet government in 1945



ПРИ ГОДА ВОЙНЫ

WHY HITLER LOST

Despite the Nazi war machine's initial victories as the armoured spearheads of Operation Barbarossa struck deep across the expanse of Russia, killing or capturing millions of Red Army soldiers, Adolf Hitler had failed to reckon with several salient points that condemned the Wehrmacht to defence, decline and defeat on the Eastern Front. Expecting a rapid advance to victory, Hitler underestimated the resolve of his communist enemy and the steely, ruthless determination of Josef Stalin once the Soviet Union was plunged into war.

As the Germans marched from victory to victory, overconfidence gripped the Führer and his senior commanders. However, by the autumn of 1941, the situation had begun to take on a different character. While Hitler meddled with the conduct of the offensive both strategically and tactically, Red Army counterattacks and then seemingly endless rain, mud and snow combined to slow the

triumphant Nazi tide. For the German soldier, an ill wind blew across Russia with the winter of 1941. Often with nothing more substantial than their summer uniforms to protect against the bitter cold, men were incapacitated or simply froze to death. Engines and weapons became inoperable. A mechanised army ground to a chilling halt. Panzer commanders peered through field glasses at the domes of Moscow fewer than 20 kilometres away.

When Hitler turned his tanks towards Stalingrad and the oil fields of the Caucasus the following summer, only death and destruction awaited his powerful Sixth Army and the once seemingly invincible Wehrmacht formations. Eventually an inexorable wave of Soviet retribution roared across eastern Europe and into the streets of Berlin. On the Eastern Front, Hitler's reach had exceeded his grasp, revealing the Führer's destiny to die, along with his dream of world domination, amid the rubble of his capital city.

"THEY ARE EVERYWHERE PUSHING THROUGH THE WIDE GAPS THAT HAVE OPENED UP IN OUR FRONT. THE RETREAT IN SNOW AND ICE IS ABSOLUTELY NAPOLEONIC IN ITS MANNER. THE LOSSES ARE THE SAME"

GENERAL GOTTHARD HEINRICI, WHO SERVED IN THE FOURTH ARMY UNDER VON KLUGE, 22 DECEMBER 1941

THE SHEER SCALE OF OPERATION BARBAROSSA

The Wehrmacht boasted a total of

134 + 73
DIVISIONS at full fighting strength
DIVISIONS for deployment behind the front



3.5 MILLION
GERMAN TROOPS

50,000
SLOVAKIAN TROOPS



300,000 FINNS



1 MILLION GERMAN ALLIED TROOPS



250,000
ROMANIANS

THE GERMANS HAD



3,580 TANKS



2,700 AIRCRAFT



500,000 TRUCKS

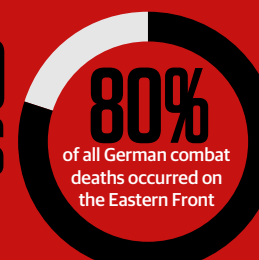


7,184 GUNS

The capture of Kiev took

665,000
PRISONERS

884 TANKS
3,000 GUNS



◆
DEFINING MOMENT

ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR,
7 DECEMBER 1941

A devastating Japanese strike aimed at crippling the US Pacific fleet, the surprise attack led to the US joining the war, helping turn the tide in favour of the Allies.

Remember Pearl Harbor



Inside the infamous attack that
shocked the world and rallied
the American
public for war

In 1941, the United States of America was not a superpower. In fact, its military strength only consisted of approximately 200,000 servicemen scattered throughout the continental US and overseas. Since its costly involvement in World War I, the USA had resisted the temptation to involve itself with global affairs, practicing instead a policy of isolationism. The 'Day of Infamy' would change all that.

On 7 December 1941, Japan launched an unprovoked attack against the US Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor on the Hawaiian island of Oahu. This pre-emptive strike was intended to blunt US power in the Pacific and to bully the USA into staying out of Japan's business as it went about conquering its neighbours.

In the event, the United States' Pacific Fleet would be set ablaze, but Japan would fail to destroy its three aircraft carriers, all of which - Japanese intelligence had failed to reveal - were elsewhere that day. Pearl Harbor was considered a success for Japan at the time, but it would prove one the costliest miscalculations in the history of warfare. Rather than fold in the face of Japanese aggression, the American public united under a banner of patriotism, and in the supposed warning words of Japanese Admiral Yamamoto, who masterminded the attack, a sleeping giant awoke.

By the time the USA's conflict with Japan ended four years later, it was a global player in possession of the most powerful war machine the world had ever seen. By harnessing its huge industrial might, the country had built a military that boasted 8.3 million troops, jet fighters, long-range bombers and the world's first atomic weapons. 7 December 1941 was, in US President Franklin Roosevelt's words, "A date which will live in infamy." Here's how its dramatic moments unfolded.

Sunday 7 December 1941, 5am

As the sun rose over the vast blue expanse of the central Pacific Ocean, a Japanese fleet that included two battleships, three cruisers, nine destroyers and six aircraft carriers waited 370 kilometres north of Hawaii, safely out of range of US radar. Hundreds of pilots gathered on deck to say their prayers.

They would shortly deliver the first blows in a terrible war against the United States that would eventually result in the reduction of two Japanese cities - Hiroshima and Nagasaki - to irradiated dust.

The Japanese had trained these pilots well. For almost a year they had been secretly practising low-altitude torpedo runs against sea-borne targets, as well as high-altitude precision bombing drills, at Ariake Bay on Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's main islands. With its narrow entrance and shallow waters, this location was a geographical ringer for the pilots' real target at Pearl Harbor in Oahu, Hawaii - the US Pacific Fleet.

"It was a Sunday morning in a tropical paradise, the US was not at war and Outerbridge's message would be left un-decoded. In fact, it wouldn't be read until moments before the raid began"

6.10am

As unsuspecting Americans on Oahu dozed in their beds, still 370 kilometres away, Admiral Chuichi Nagumo - commander of Japan's First Fleet Air Arm - gave the order to launch the first attack wave. Hundreds of Japanese aircraft hurtled off of the aircraft carriers' decks and into the early

morning sky. Among the strike force were Japanese fighters, torpedo planes and dive-bombers. They launched with split-second timing, and the entire air armada was airborne within 15 minutes. Lieutenant Commander Chigusa on the destroyer Akigumo was impressed. "We felt

rather confident seeing the planes flying to their rendezvous points," he later wrote in his diary. "Our crew waved to the planes as they were flying past our upper deck, [and] I noticed that I was waving my cap vigorously and unconsciously from my position on the bridge. By and by, the first group launched and joined in a formation of 183 planes, and they soon disappeared into the southern sky." The Japanese assault had been planned to

take place in three waves. The first would attack all military installations on Oahu, the second would zero in on more specific targets, while the third would smash fuel-storage tanks, dry docks, and repair facilities. The three aircraft carriers the Japanese were hoping to destroy in the raid, however, were not present.

USS Lexington was hundreds of kilometres to the east ferrying planes to the US airbase on Midway Island. USS Saratoga was in San Diego, California, having just had a refit, while USS Enterprise was on exercise 320 kilometres to the south of Oahu. Around the same time that the Japanese first wave took to the skies, 18 aircraft also left the decks bound for Ford Island in the centre of Pearl Harbor. Their estimated time of arrival was 8am.

6.30am

The destroyer USS Ward was on routine patrol around the entrance to Pearl Harbor when its crew spotted an unidentified submarine turret. Ward's commander, Captain Outerbridge, followed protocol and dropped depth charges. At 6.53am, he sent a message to the commandant of the 14th Naval District on Oahu. It read: "Have dropped depth charges upon submarine operating in defensive sea area." It should have been enough to put the whole naval base on high alert. However, it

An aerial view of Pearl Harbor with Ford Island in the centre, the navy yard beyond it and Hickam Field in the upper left



was Sunday morning in a tropical paradise, the US was not at war and Outerbridge's message would be left un-decoded. In fact, it wouldn't be read until moments before the raid began.

7.02am

On Oahu's north coast, at the remote Opana Radar station, two young US army privates Joseph Lockard and George E Elliott watched as a mysterious shimmering light filled the top of the screen they were monitoring. Concerned, they called in a warning to their unit's information centre at Fort Shaftner in Honolulu. Most of the staff were at breakfast. A new and inexperienced officer, Lieutenant Tyler, took the call, telling them not to worry: a flight of US B-17 Flying Fortress bombers was expected in from California that morning, and was probably ahead of schedule. He told the two privates to shut the station down and return to base.

7.15am

The Japanese fleet, now 340 kilometres from Oahu, received the order to launch the next wave of aircraft. Chigusa, again a witness, wrote: "The second group of 167 attack planes started their launch one by one... I saw all the planes off, earnestly wishing them 'The best of luck.' The first news came from one of our patrol planes: ➤



Yamamoto was killed when his plane was shot down over the Solomon Islands in 1943

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto

The man who masterminded the attack also knew it might bring disaster

While fully aware of the USA's industrial capacity, Yamamoto gambled on the nation not having the resolve to fight a protracted overseas war. He asserted that Japan's only chance for victory would be in a crippling pre-emptive attack. He believed it would force the USA to negotiate peace terms that would allow Japan free rein in East Asia. Any long war with the US, he claimed, however, would be disastrous for Japan. His latter prediction proved to be unerringly accurate.



Roosevelt proved a great war-time leader, but died of stroke before the nation's victory

Franklin D. Roosevelt

One of the USA's greatest ever presidents had known war was coming

President Roosevelt had long argued that the USA couldn't remain isolated from what was rapidly becoming a global conflict. By supplying Great Britain and other Allied countries with arms and materiel since the start of 1941, the US had already effectively picked sides. When, in July of that year, Roosevelt issued a trade embargo against Japan after its invasion of French Indo-China, he helped convince the Japanese leadership of the need to curtail American influence.

The super-dreadnought USS Pennsylvania sits behind the jumbled mass of wreckage of the destroyers Downes and Cassin



This U.S. Vought OS2U Kingfisher was destroyed on the ground at Ford Island during the attack



Japan's military rivalries

How a feud between Japan's navy and army sparked the attack on the USA

While the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) was launching its attack on the USA, the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) was busy on the far side of the Pacific invading British-held colonies there. As bombs and torpedoes were ripping the US Pacific Fleet apart, more than 5,000 Japanese troops were storming beaches in the Malay Peninsula, while a further 52,000 would later seize Hong Kong.

The two attacks may appear to be tactically co-ordinated, especially as the pre-emptive strike at Pearl Harbor was a gamble, aiming to ensure the US played no part in trying to stop its colonial ambitions throughout Asia. But both stemmed from a deep-rooted rivalry between Imperial Japan's navy and its army.

The origins of this inter-service rivalry could be traced back to the Meiji Era, which between 1868 and 1912 saw Japan transformed from an isolated feudal society to a modern, Western-style country. Although both the IJA and IJN were formed around the start of this era, political jostling, competition for resources as well as snobbery (the army tended to recruit from the rural peasantry, while the navy from more sophisticated, urban sections of the population) created a tension between the two.

This began to manifest itself in geo-political terms in the early 1930s when two opposing factions emerged, both with different ideas about how Japan could achieve its imperial ambitions. These were known as *Hokushin-ron* and *Nanshin-ron* - literally 'strike north' and 'strike south'. Both groups advocated seizing territories rich in the necessary raw resources - in particular oil - that Japan needed to supercharge its economy.

The strike north faction, which favoured seizing Siberia by way of Manchuria, was understandably backed by the army, which saw in its military philosophy a chance for glory. The strike south faction, meanwhile, made the case for grabbing Indonesia's myriad islands, a scenario that would require the navy to be the dominant military force.

Initially, strike north had the upper hand, launching a successful invasion of China in 1937. However, when the IJA was defeated by the Soviet army at the Battles of Khalkhin Gol in 1939, further expansion north became impossible and the argument presented by the strike south faction gained momentum, paving the way for the war in the Pacific and the attack on Pearl Harbor.

A Mitsubishi Zero fighter aboard the IJN aircraft carrier Akagi prior to departing for the attack



► 'Eleven capital ships are in Pearl Harbor.'

Although the Pacific Fleet's three carriers were elsewhere, there were still rich pickings to be had. Of those anchored in Pearl Harbor, USS Oklahoma was one of the finest battleships in the American fleet and home to 1,398 officers and crew. It had earlier been moved from its customary defensive mooring to the south of Battleship Row on Ford Island, as it was due to undergo an inspection. Because of this, all its exterior portholes and interior hatches had been opened to make it more comfortable for the inspecting officers. In peacetime, this was a routine practice. In wartime, however, it was potentially disastrous, and so it was to prove.

7.35am

Approaching Oahu from its craggy eastern coast, the first wave of Japanese warplanes wasn't picked up by US radar because of a dead zone caused by a mountain range. The first Japanese planes reached the island completely undetected. The element of surprise - so necessary for the success of Admiral Yamamoto's plan - had been achieved perfectly. Commander Mitso Fuschida was leading the first wave. At about 7.40am, he gave the order 'Tenkei' (Take attack position), slid back the canopy of his torpedo bomber as it roared along at 370 kilometres per hour and fired a green flare. It was the signal to attack.

7.52am

Commander Fuschida radioed the fleet with the signal 'Tora! Tora! Tora!' (Tiger! Tiger! Tiger!), which was a code meaning that maximum strategic surprise had been achieved. Moments later, the first Japanese assault wave, with a mixture of bombers, torpedo planes and fighters, swept out of the skies and began hunting their targets. With orders to make multiple simultaneous attacks, the first wave struck. Explosions could be heard all across the island. Dive-bombers struck at Kaneohe Naval Air Station in the north of Oahu. More dive-bombers and fighters screeched down on Bellows Air Field in the east. Parked aircraft erupted in flames, as stunned aircrew were sent scattering amid a thunderclap of high explosives and machine-gun fire.

All over Oahu there was mass confusion on the ground. In the air, meanwhile, unchallenged Japanese fighters ran into the aircraft dispatched from USS Enterprise earlier that morning as they arrived on time and unarmed. As they desperately tried to land on Ford Island, they were caught



Rescue crews scramble to reach survivors from USS West Virginia shortly after the assault

between enemy and friendly fire when those on the ground began to fight back.

8.02am

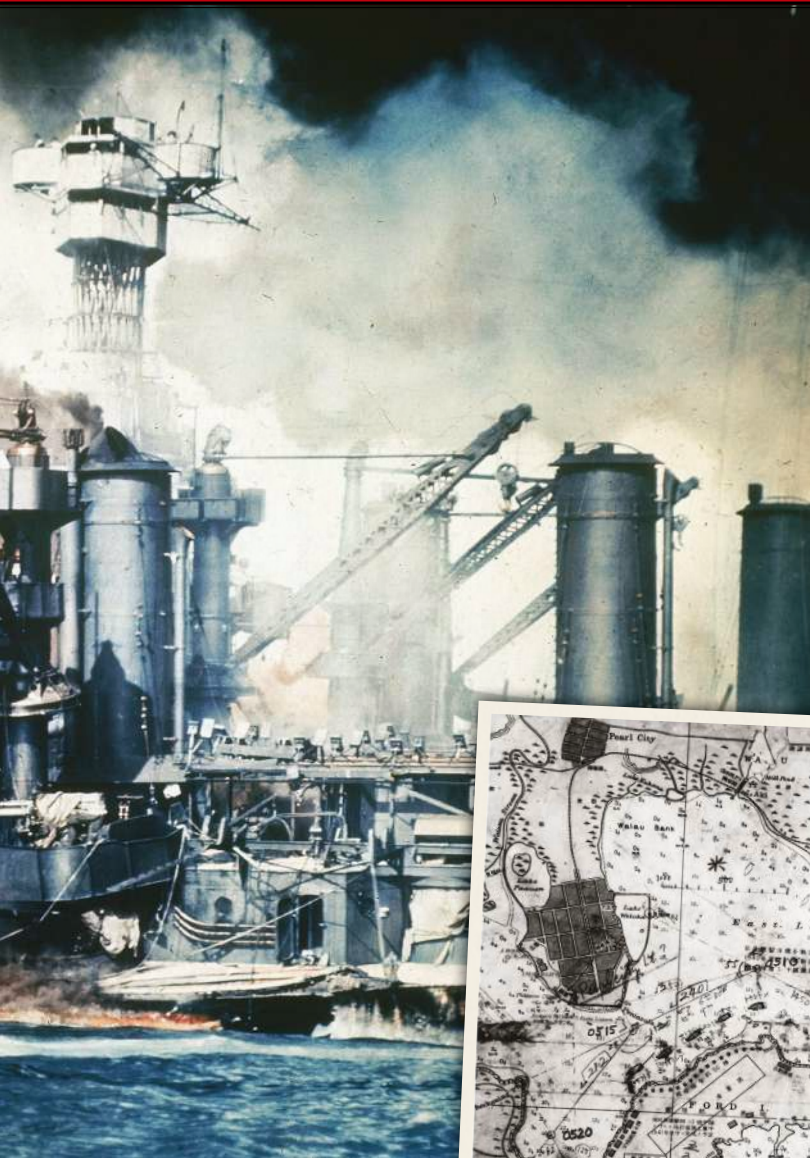
As a torpedo tore a huge hole in the battleship Nevada's port bow, its anti-aircraft gunners opened fire on a swarm of Japanese planes. Gunners on Arizona and the vessel moored next to it, the repair ship USS Vestal, also shot back. After being hit by a torpedo on the portside, USS California began to sink. It was time for high-level bombers to begin their run on Battleship Row.

8.08am

The local radio station *KGMB* interrupted its regular music programme to announce: 'All army, navy and Marine personnel are to report for duty.' By this time, high-level Japanese bombers were unleashing armour-piercing, delayed-action bombs from 3,000 metres. An 800-kilogram

"An 800-kilogram bomb plunged downward with precision accuracy towards Arizona. Moments later, the battleship's magazines erupted. The resulting explosion sent a huge fireball soaring 150 metres into the pristine blue sky"

Remember Pearl Harbor



Smoke rises from the blazing ruins of aircraft Hanger 6 on Ford island



Above: This detailed Japanese map of Pearl Harbor was found inside one of the midgeet submarines used in the attack

bomb released by Japanese Pilot Officer Kanai Noboru plunged downward with precision accuracy towards Arizona. Moments later, the battleship's magazines erupted. The resulting explosion sent a huge fireball soaring 150 metres into the pristine blue sky. The mighty warship twisted and shrieked as its bough broke. It sank in under nine minutes, with the loss of 1,177 lives. Two ship lengths away, USS Oklahoma was the next ship to be targeted. After being struck by several torpedoes, explosions ripped huge holes into its hull, and because its portholes and watertight hatches had been left open, seawater surged into the ship. At 8.14am, it capsized. More than 400 men trapped inside could be heard pounding against the steel hull. Desperate attempts to free the entombed sailors would continue into the night.

8.17am

As well as attacks from the air, the Japanese had earlier dispatched five two-man mini-submarines to attack the ships anchored at Ford Island from below. The first had been sunk earlier that morning by USS Ward. USS Helm, the first of several destroyers to escape Pearl Harbor, spotted another stuck on a reef at the harbour's entrance and opened fire. Over the next 20 minutes,

the fate of the other mini subs was settled, as one by one they were knocked out of the fight, most dramatically when another destroyer, USS Monaghan, rammed one inside Pearl Harbor itself.

8.50am

The second wave of Japanese aircraft led by Lieutenant Commander Shigekazu Shimazaki began to arrive from the north, under orders to strike military targets right across the island with fighters, torpedo planes and bombers. Minutes later, the second attack run started as dozens of dive-bombers hit ships in Pearl Harbor, while high-level bombers hit the air stations. The fighters, meanwhile, circled over the island tightening their grip on air supremacy. Many US fighters attempting to confront them were shot up on the runways of the island's various airfields before they could take off. If the first wave of the Japanese

attack had caused immediate confusion, the second one created total chaos. Americans were firing at anything in the sky. Alarmingly, some of the planes they shot down were the unarmed bombers arriving from the mainland.

9.05am

KGMB Radio issued urgent warnings for Hawaii's citizens to stay off the roads. Meanwhile, in the harbour, rescue workers - toiling amid the furnace blast of battle - began working on the capsized Oklahoma. They used blowtorches on the thick steel hull in the hopes of cutting their way through to the crewmen who were fighting for their lives on the other side.

9.25am

The island's fire-fighting capabilities were, by this time, exhausted. When USS Shaw, a destroyer in dry dock, was hit by three bombs and fires began to rage through the vessel, there were no means to extinguish them. Shortly after 9.30am, as the last Japanese aircraft disappeared over the smoke-choked horizon, those fires reached its forward magazine. The raid was brought to its cataclysmic conclusion as another giant explosion ripped through the Hawaiian sky. Yamamoto's plan, it seemed, had worked. Pearl Harbor was in flames, the US military was in chaos, and its once mighty Pacific Fleet lay in waste.

Japan attacks

How the Imperial Japanese Navy launched one of history's most devastating raids

FIRST ATTACK

49 HIGH-LEVEL BOMBERS
51 DIVE-BOMBERS
40 TORPEDO BOMBERS
43 FIGHTERS

The first wave of attacking aircraft

Launched at 6.10am, it takes the 183 attack aircraft just 15 minutes to get airborne and in formation.

Wheeler field

Japanese fighter planes target Wheeler first and, about four minutes later, attack Pearl Harbor.

Picked up by radar

At 7.02am, the Opana radar station picks up the first wave, however, it's mistaken for the flight of B17s.

SECOND ATTACK

54 HIGH-LEVEL BOMBERS
78 DIVE-BOMBERS
36 FIGHTERS

The second wave

At 7.20am, the Japanese launch another 167 attack aircraft. This follow-up assault is designed to hit specific military targets.

Haleiwa field

Nine Japanese aircraft are shot down by pilots from this airfield.

Bellows field

Eight Zeros attack, shooting down two US fighters.

PEARL HARBOR

Aichi D3A 'Val' Dive Bomber

Of the 441 aircraft in Japan's task force, 153 were 'Val' dive-bombers. Thought to be obsolete by the Allies, they were used to devastating effect at Pearl Harbor. With a 250-kilogram bomb strapped to its fuselage, the Val went on to sink more Allied warships than any other Axis aircraft during the entire conflict.

Battleship row

What vessels survived the attack?

USS Pennsylvania Damaged

In dry dock at the time, repeated Japanese attempts to torpedo the caisson it was held in failed. Damaged by bombs, 68 of its crew were killed or wounded.



USS Arizona Sunk

Attacked by ten Kate torpedo planes during the first wave. One torpedo hit the ship's forward magazine resulting in a gigantic explosion. Of its 1,512 crew, just 335 survived.



USS Nevada Seriously damaged

Despite being torpedoed, Nevada was able to escape Battleship Row during the attack. It was repeatedly targeted by dive-bombers from the second wave.



USS Oklahoma Sunk

Hit by three torpedoes early in the raid. As it capsized, a further two torpedoes smashed into its listing hull, and its crew was machine gunned while attempting to abandon ship.



Remember Pearl Harbor

★★★ SHIP KEY ★★★

	Sunk
	Heavily damaged
	Moderately damaged
	Not damaged

USS Arizona sunk

Within minutes of the attack beginning, the battleship Arizona is hit by high-altitude bombing. It sinks within nine minutes.

USS Nevada torpedoed

Crippled early on in the attack, Nevada is pounded by the second wave as it tries to escape out to sea.

USS Oklahoma capsizes

Ten torpedoes rip through the battleship's hull. It capsizes in just 12 minutes with 461 men still trapped inside.

Hickham Airfield attacked

12 unarmed Flying Fortresses are, by coincidence, attempting to land as Hickham is attacked. Five are lost.

Nakajima B5N 'Kate' Torpedo Bomber

In 1941, the 'Kate' was considered the best carrier-borne torpedo bomber in the world. Dubbed Kate by the Allies who identified Japanese aircraft with Western-sounding names, there were 162 of them on the raid. Armed with an 800-kilogram torpedo or 250-kilogram bomb, Kate bombers sunk USS Oklahoma.

USS Tennessee Minor damage

Tennessee was hit by two armour-piercing bombs, which destroyed two gun turrets. Shrapnel from the first also killed the captain of USS West Virginia, which was moored next to it.



USS California Sunk. Refloated and rebuilt by January 1944

All portholes and hatches on California had been left open causing flooding when it was hit by torpedoes. It took the ship three days to sink.



USS Maryland Damaged

Hit by two armour-piercing bombs that exploded low on its hull, causing flooding. It stayed afloat, however, and its crew fought back. Two officers and two men were killed.



USS West Virginia Sunk. Refloated and rebuilt by July 1944

Five torpedoes sunk West Virginia. When it was refloated, 66 bodies were recovered with evidence some had survived for 16 days.



The USA's call to arms

The attack was supposed to destroy US resolve; instead it inspired vengeance on an almighty scale

By 10am, the first Japanese aircraft began arriving back at their carriers, now lying just 300 kilometres north of Oahu, with the second wave of planes following closely behind. Despite insistent pleas from Commander Fushida - who had led the first wave - to launch the third part of the assault, Admiral Nagumo decided against it. Unsure of the location of the American aircraft carriers, he was unwilling to risk it for fear of being spotted and attacked from the air, so he withdrew. The Japanese fleet retreated back into the vast blue expanse from which it had appeared just hours earlier.

On Hawaii, however, the local population were steeling themselves for an invasion as rumours of Japanese paratroop assaults and amphibious landings spread. At 12.30pm, the Honolulu Police Department raided the Japanese Embassy in the Hawaiian capital to discover diplomats busily burning documents. Meanwhile, government agents began raiding the homes of Hawaii's sizeable Japanese community,

seizing domestic radio sets for fear that they might be used to communicate with Japanese forces in order to help co-ordinate further attacks. Later that day, after consulting with President Roosevelt over the phone, Hawaii's Governor Joseph Poindexter declared Hawaii (not then a US State) be placed under martial law, handing full control of the island over to the American military.

Oahu, meanwhile, was a chaotic mess. The wreckage of burned-out aircraft littered airstrips, buildings - both military and civilian - were left shattered and charred, while hospital staff struggled to cope with thousands of casualties. At Pearl Harbor, rescue workers toiled ceaselessly to save the lives of the 461 men trapped in the overturned Oklahoma. After hours of desperate attempts, just 32 sailors would eventually be pulled from the capsized battleship.

The following day, Roosevelt addressed a joint session of the United States Congress and delivered the following speech:

December 7th, 1941

PROPOSED MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan... The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost...

Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands. Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation... I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

Franklin D. Roosevelt



Thousands of US citizens of Japanese origin were forced into internment camps after the attack

Prior to the attack, the United States of America had been a divided nation. Still recovering from the aftershocks of the 1929 Wall Street Crash and the subsequent Great Depression, it now became galvanised.

Overnight, opposition to American involvement in what was now clearly a world war evaporated as the country patriotically responded to the call to "Remember Pearl Harbor!" In fact just one member of the US House of Representatives voted against Roosevelt's appeal for Congress to declare war on Japan.

The USA's economy was switched into overdrive as it geared up to produce an overwhelming amount of arms and munitions. It was the birth of what would come to be known as the country's military-industrial complex.

Three days later, Japan's allies Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, and for the second time in less than a week, Congress again voted for war. More than two years after the start of hostilities, the United States had finally joined the fight.





The fate of Japanese Americans

The attack provoked a reactionary response both from the US public and its government that caused thousands to suffer



Almost as soon as the raid was over, the Japanese-American population was targeted for revenge both on Hawaii and on the mainland. As well as racist assaults, innocent citizens became subject to official persecution when, 74 days after the attack, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. This forced more than 110,000 Japanese Americans to leave their homes along the US's West Coast to be sent to one of ten detention camps in an isolated part of the US's vast interior. Not one was charged with a crime and about 70 per cent of those imprisoned were actually US-born citizens.

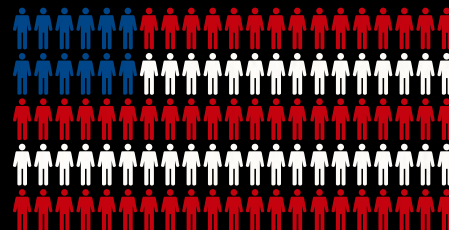
Although the government called these camps 'relocation centres', they were surrounded by

barbed wire and policed by armed soldiers. Families sent to them lived in barrack blocks with no running water and little heat, sharing public bathroom facilities.

Most Japanese Americans were kept in these camps until well into 1944, although one way out was to join the US military. Japanese Americans served in segregated units, with the 100th Infantry Battalion being the most recognised.

Japanese-American troops of this unit served with distinction in Europe racking up 18,413 individual awards including 21 Medals of Honor - the US military's highest award for valour. For its size and period of service, the 100th Infantry Battalion became the most decorated unit in the US Army.

IN NUMBERS



3,581

Number of US casualties at Pearl Harbor

68

Civilians were killed in the raid

347



US aircraft were destroyed or damaged during the raid

29

Japanese planes were destroyed in the attack

32

out of the 461 sailors trapped in the hull of the capsized Oklahoma were saved

1

Just one Japanese prisoner was taken

90

The attack lasted

minutes

19



US warships and auxiliary ships were destroyed or damaged during the attacks

5



Japanese mini subs also participated in the attack. Four were destroyed and one captured



DEFINING MOMENT

BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA,
6 AUGUST 1945

In the hope of ending the war, the US dropped the first atomic bomb used for warfare onto Hiroshima, Japan, killing over 70,000 people.

The first atomic bomb

Eye Witness

DUTCH VAN KIRK



Having already served 58 missions in Africa and Europe during World War II, Dutch

Van Kirk transferred to the 509th Composite Group. He was the navigator on the Enola Gay, which on 6 August 1945 dropped the first nuclear bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Here he recounts those events before his death in 2014 at the age of 93.

“ I didn't feel too good about dropping the bomb – but I didn't feel too bad about dropping it either. It could have been us... ”

Theodore Van Kirk, known to everyone as 'Dutch', was having trouble sleeping.

It was a common affliction among soldiers before a mission, but then again Dutch and his fellow 11 crewmates stationed on the tiny Pacific island of Tinian had more reason than most to be suffering from insomnia that night. The date was 5 August 1945 and tomorrow morning they were to drop the first-ever atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

To pass the time, some of the crew – including navigator Dutch, bombardier, Tom Ferebee, and pilot, Paul Tibbets, played poker. It was quite prophetic considering that in a matter of hours they would be gambling again – but this time with much higher stakes.

Sure, the USA had successfully detonated the first nuclear device the previous month during the Trinity test in New Mexico, and Dutch, like all the crew, had several months' intensive training at Wendover Airbase in Utah under his belt. Nevertheless the fact remained that what they were about to do had never before been attempted in warfare. Indeed, Dutch recalls, "One of the atomic scientists told us we think you'll be okay if the plane is [14.5 kilometres] nine miles away when the bomb detonates." When challenged on his use of the word *think*, he levelled with them: "We just don't know."

Dutch had been hand-picked to join the 509th Composite Group – the unit tasked with deploying nuclear weapons – by his former commander: "I flew

with Paul Tibbets all the time in England. We flew General Dwight Eisenhower [later to become US president] from Hurn [on the south coast of Britain] down to Gibraltar, for example, to command the north African invasion. Then we were all separated and doing various things – I was at a navigation school, for example, teaching other navigators. Tibbets was picked to take command of the 509th group and that's when he looked up some of the people he'd worked with in the 97th [Bombardment Group]."

The history books often paint a picture that the US government and other Allied powers were hand-wringing right up until the final hour over the decision to use the A-bomb. However, although Japan was presented with an ultimatum to surrender on 26 July – which they rejected two days later – Dutch personally felt it was always a foregone conclusion: "I knew that I was going to drop the atomic bomb from February of that year [1945]. It didn't come as a surprise. We were posted to the US airbase at Tinian for about a month prior to dropping the bomb, just keeping in shape."

Around 10pm, the crew were called from the barracks to have an early breakfast before one last briefing and final checks of the Enola Gay. Dutch remembers they had pineapple fritters because he hated them, but Paul Tibbets loved them. While he might not have seen eye to eye with his commander when it came to the choice of breakfast, he has only praise for the man that piloted

Countdown to destruction

16 July 1945

5.29am **First detonation**
US scientists successfully detonate the first nuclear device at the Trinity test site

28 July **Japanese government rejects surrender terms put forward in the Potsdam Declaration**

5 August

2pm **Calm before storm**
Having been told they have the go-ahead to drop the atomic bomb, Van Kirk and the rest of the crew try to get some sleep

3pm **The Little Boy bomb is loaded onto the Enola Gay**

6pm **Struggling to sleep. Van Kirk, Ferebee, Tibbets and others play poker**

10pm **The crew gets up to prepare for the flight to Hiroshima and eat breakfast**

6 August

12am **Van Kirk and the crew make their way to the Enola Gay, after a final briefing**

1.37am **Weather report**
The three weather planes leave North Field Airbase on Tinian to confirm conditions are favourable

2.45am **The Enola Gay takes off, followed by three other B-29s taking part in Special Mission #13**

5.52am **Little Boy armed**
The planes fly over Iwo Jima island, where the Enola Gay's backup, Top Secret, lands. The Little Boy bomb is armed

7.30am **With the all-clear from the weather planes, the Enola Gay, The Great Artiste and #91 head for Hiroshima**

8.13am **Pilot, Paul Tibbets, hands over control to the bombardier, Tom Ferebee, to make the bomb run**

8.15am **Payload dropped**
Little Boy is released and it detonates 43 seconds after, about 600m (1,900ft) above the city of Hiroshima. The Enola Gay experiences a shockwave moments later

3pm **Mission complete**
The Enola Gay touches down on Tinian, its mission successfully completed. Paul Tibbets receives the Distinguished Service Cross



Seven of the Enola Gay's 12-man bombing crew stand before the aircraft; Dutch is third from the left, looking down, next to pilot, Paul Tibbets



The North Field Airbase on Tinian played host to 15 modified B-29s and their crews

the specially modified B-29 to Hiroshima - and then back again.

"He was an outstanding pilot. His skill saved all of the crew's lives a number of times in Europe and Africa. When he got in an aeroplane, he [became] part of it. When you flew with Paul Tibbets you didn't have to have your shoes polished or your pants pressed - and all that sort of stuff - but when you got in the plane, you better damn well know what you were doing!"

It's hard to imagine what the mood on the Enola Gay must have been like as it took off at 2.45am, but from Dutch's perspective this mission was the same as any other. "We were going a long distance over water, using Iwo Jima as a checkpoint on the way. Now if you got lost between Iwo Jima and Japan, you really were a sorry navigator! Everybody on board was doing his own thing. Ferebee took a nap, for example, [while] our radio operator, as I recall, was reading a whodunnit about some boxer. Everybody was making sure they did what they were there to do, and that they did it right."

While the Enola Gay and Bockscar (the plane that dropped the Nagasaki A-bomb) are the two that have gone down in history, Dutch is keen to point out that the operation was a lot wider than that: indeed, seven aircraft were involved in Special Bombing Mission #13 to Hiroshima on 6 August. Three were observational planes that flew ahead to ensure conditions were right, Top Secret was a backup to the Enola Gay which landed on Iwo Jima, while the other two aircraft - The Great Artiste and Plane #91 (later named Necessary Evil) - accompanied the Enola Gay for the full operation.

"The Great Artiste had instruments that were to be dropped at the same time as we dropped the bomb. If you were to ask me the name of them, I couldn't tell you; I just always called them 'blast meters' because that's what they were measuring. The other aircraft [Plane

#91] was flying about [32 kilometres] 20 miles behind with a large camera to get pictures of the explosion. Unfortunately on the day the camera didn't work. So the best pictures we got were from the handheld camera of the navigator on that plane."

The three aircraft arrived at Hiroshima without incident around 8am. The city had been chalked as the primary target for several reasons. There were a great number of military facilities and troops there, as well as a busy port with factories supplying a lot of the materials that would be used to defend Japan in the event of an invasion. Beyond these factors, Hiroshima had never been previously targeted by Allied forces, so any damage recorded later could solely be attributed to the nuclear bomb. Tragically for the citizens of Hiroshima, it also meant the Japanese authorities had very little reason to suspect an attack there - even when the tiny squadron of three B-29s was no doubt spotted approaching...

On the actual bomb run, Tibbets relinquished control of the Enola Gay to bombardier and close friend of Dutch's, Major Tom Ferebee. As the Little Boy bomb (which actually was not so little, weighing in at 4,400 kilograms/9,700 pounds) was released, the plane experienced an upward surge, but Tibbets managed to stabilise the B-29 and beat a hasty retreat.

"We made the 150-degree turn that we'd practised many times and pushed down the throttle to get away. All people were doing was holding on to something [in preparation for] the turbulence that was sure to follow. A loose person or a loose anything in the plane was going to go flying, so we all made sure we were in position and wearing our goggles." They were about 14.5 kilometres (nine miles) away when the bomb exploded, 43 seconds after it had been released. "We couldn't hear a thing over the engines, but we saw a bright flash and it was shortly after that we got the first shockwave.

"When we turned to look back, all we could see of Hiroshima was black smoke and dust"



The destruction wreaked on Hiroshima by the A-bomb was on an unprecedented scale

"When we turned to take a look back, all we could see of Hiroshima was black smoke and dust. The mushroom cloud was well above us at about [12,190 metres] 40,000 feet and still rising. You could still see that cloud [480 kilometres] 300 miles away." What the crew of the Enola Gay couldn't have known at that point was just how destructive the atomic bomb had been. Underneath all that smoke and dust nearly 70 per cent of the city's buildings had been laid to waste and 80,000 people were dead - and that figure was set to rise with the much-underestimated effects of radiation.

Unlike The Great Artiste with its faulty camera, as far as Dutch was concerned on board the Enola Gay "everything had gone exactly according to plan. The weather was perfect; I could probably see Hiroshima from [120 kilometres] 75 miles away. My navigation was only off by six seconds," he says with pride. "Tom put the bomb exactly where he expected. We got a lot of turbulence, but the plane did not break up, which it could have done, and we got home. Now, as for the second mission to Nagasaki, everything went wrong. They had a lot of luck on that mission..."

Indeed, three days later on 9 August, a different bombing crew on Bockscar almost didn't make it to Nagasaki due to a combination of bad weather and logistical errors. However, they managed to salvage the mission; the result of their success was the obliteration of another city and at least 40,000 of its inhabitants. Less than a week later Emperor Hirohito made a radio announcement, declaring Japan's surrender due to "a new and most cruel bomb, the power of which is incalculable, taking the toll of many innocent lives."

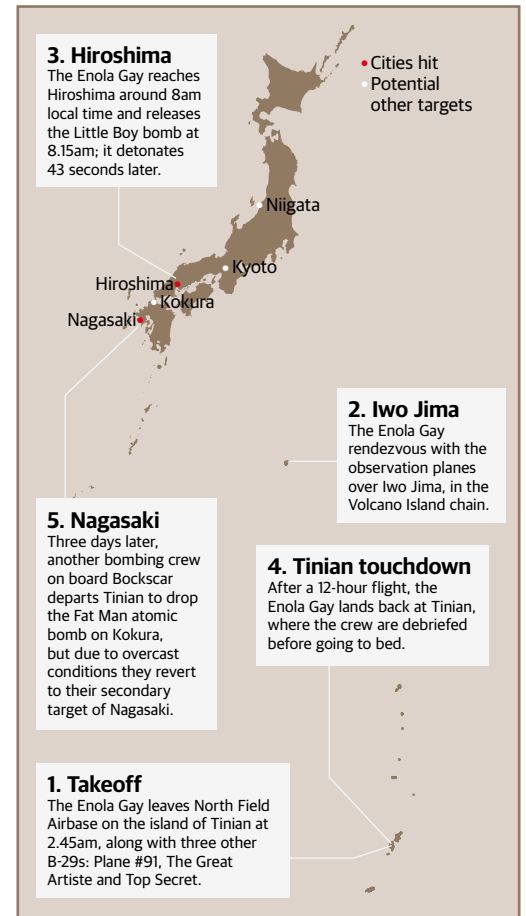
A few weeks after the bombings, Dutch Van Kirk was part of the crew transporting scientists to Nagasaki to measure the devastation of one of these 'new and most cruel bombs' first-hand. "Having picked up some

scientists in Tokyo from the Japanese atomic programme - they were also working on atomic bombs, you see - we flew down to Nagasaki; we couldn't land at Hiroshima at that time. We landed on a dirt field and the Japanese commander of the base came out, looking for someone to surrender to. We were given old cars - 1927 Chevrolet models, or similar - to drive to the city centre, but they all broke down three times before getting into Nagasaki.

"There wasn't really anything that shocked us, though there is one thing [that has stayed with me]. The Japanese military was being broken up at the time and one of the soldiers arrived on the bus looking for his home - but it had been destroyed. I remember looking at Tom Ferebee, and saying, 'You know, Tom, that could have been us if the war had gone the opposite way.' I didn't feel too good about dropping the bomb - but I didn't feel too bad about dropping it either. This was one man among many that were saved by dropping the bomb" - because it had precluded a full-scale invasion of Japan. "It was very important we saw that, and we both recognised how lucky we were."

Along with all the other Enola Gay crew, who have since passed away, Dutch Van Kirk has no regrets about dropping the atomic bomb, seeing it as the lesser of two evils. Asked whether he believes the result would have been the same - ie World War II would have been forced to end - if things 'had gone the opposite way' and Japan had dropped an atomic bomb on America first, there's a long pause, before Dutch responds, "No, I don't think so. I think we would have been more resilient."

But underneath the assured bravado of his reply, there's no getting around how long he had hesitated before he answered - or the fact that, like that atomic scientist who couldn't offer any certainties on Tinian back in 1945, he had used the word *think*.



Origins and aftermath

The US started developing the nuclear bomb following a warning from Albert Einstein and other physicists in 1939 that the Germans were close to constructing their own. Project Manhattan got underway in 1941 and by July 1945 had successfully detonated the first-ever nuclear device in the Trinity test. By this point Germany had already surrendered so the Allied forces' sights were now trained solely on the last remaining Axis power: Japan. Having refused an ultimatum to surrender in the Potsdam Declaration, the Allies felt they were left with two options: a full-scale invasion or the use of nuclear bombs. They opted for the latter. It remains one of the most controversial military decisions ever taken, yet many argue that invading Japan would have claimed many more lives in the long term.



Little Boy produced a force equivalent to around 15,000 tons of TNT

© Corbis, Alamy



13 DAYS ARMAGEDDON

◆
DEFINING MOMENT

CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS,
16 OCTOBER 1962

JFK is informed of Soviet missile bases being constructed in Cuba. Over the next week and a half the world came agonisingly close to nuclear war.

AYS TO EDDON

At the height of the Cold War, Cuba became the fulcrum of a deadly face-off between the Soviet Union and the United States

In October 1962 the world almost ended. At the height of the Cold War, the United States of America and the Soviet Union found themselves in a tense standoff over Russian medium and intermediate-range ballistic missiles being stockpiled in bases in the rebellious Republic of Cuba. Over a terrifying 13 days, the two superpowers came to the brink of nuclear war, with their mutually assured destruction looking alarmingly possible. To the Russians, this dark chapter of their history is referred to as the Caribbean Crisis. To the Cubans, it's the October Crisis. But to America and much of the rest of the world, the words 'the Cuban Missile Crisis' are those that invoke that particular chill of almost unimaginable horror only narrowly averted.

By the time of the Crisis, the United States and Russia had been engaged in their Cold War for almost 20 years since the end of the Second World War - some trace it back even further to the First World War. Not a conflict in the usual sense, it had mostly been an affair played out through espionage rather than military force, although the superpowers had each involved themselves in regional wars in China, Greece and Korea. After 1945, the single-party Marxist-Leninist Soviet State found itself in complete ideological opposition to the States' 'free' capitalist society, consolidating its control over the Eastern Bloc, while the United States tried to contain it through international initiatives like NATO. Having wrestled for control and influence in Latin





KENNEDY

JFK became president in 1960 for the Democrat Party. He aimed to end racial segregation in schools and public places and liberalised immigration laws. He strengthened unemployment benefits and called on the nations of the world to band together to fight poverty, hunger and disease. He also urged Americans to be active citizens, famously saying, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

With his presidency at the height of the Cold War, Kennedy was a vehement anti-Communist. He fought Communism in developing nations and introduced the Space Race as much from a perceived necessity to beat the Russians to the Moon as for the scientific achievement. As well as the Cuban Missile Crisis, Kennedy's administration intervened in Vietnam against Communists there. After Cuba, Kennedy's US negotiated a nuclear test ban treaty with the USSR and the UK.

He served in the US Navy from 1941 until 1945. He was working in the office of the secretary of the Navy when the attack on Pearl Harbor took place, but he subsequently saw action in Panama and the Pacific, commanding torpedo boats and achieving the rank of lieutenant. He received the Purple Heart and the WWII Victory Medal among several other decorations. He was finally released from active service due to a recurring back injury.

Among Kennedy's main advisors were Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, Secretary of Defence Robert S. McNamara and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, JFK's brother. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, Kennedy convened the special advisory committee EXCOMM, including all the above, Ambassador to the Soviet Union Llewellyn Thompson, with members of the CIA and the Defence Department.



KHRUSHCHEV

Khrushchev was first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1958 until 1964. He was responsible for moving the Communist Party away from Stalinism, ending forced labour and closing the Gulags. He was an early backer of the Soviet Space Programme, and was behind some relatively liberal domestic policies, such as allowing more freedom to the arts and opening up the opportunity for ordinary Soviets to travel abroad.

The Soviet premier appointed himself as head of the USSR's UN delegation in 1960, where he was accused of a double standard by claiming to oppose colonialism while at the same time attempting Communist domination of Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia and the Third World. Achieving the first manned space flight led the world to infer the USSR's nuclear weapons programme was further ahead than it was. Khrushchev was happy not to disabuse anyone of that notion.

He served in the Red Army as a political commissar, both during the Russian Civil War (1917-1922) and WWII. The rank was roughly equal to that of a unit commander, but the commissar has the military to countermand the commander's orders when he deems it necessary. Khrushchev's primary function was as a political intermediary between troops and Moscow. He did see action at the Defence of Stalingrad in 1942, though, which he remained proud of for the rest of his life.

Extraordinary as it seems, Khrushchev, after rising to power, decided Soviet policy alone, without any recourse to advisors at all. This could, of course, be viewed as a weakness since it cut his decision-making process off from others, whose input may have been valuable. But it also allowed his instincts free reign: a positive thing in regard to the Cuban Missile Crisis, where his levelheaded inclination toward peace and negotiation arguably averted a global catastrophe.

POLITICAL STANCE

FOREIGN POLICY

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

ADVISORS



These demonstrators were part of the 'Women strike for peace' movement in 1962

A group of Cuban soldiers who helped in fighting the Bay of Pigs invasion



THE BAY OF PIGS

The failed invasion that led to the Crisis

WHY IT HAPPENED

- **Concern in the US over the new left-wing direction of Cuba's politics after the removal of dictator Fulgencio Batista by revolutionary Fidel Castro.**
- **US concern over trials and executions of former Batista supporters.**
- **Castro was an outspoken critic of the USA.**

WHAT WENT WRONG?

A damning CIA report from November 1961 outlined a catalogue of points that made the attempted invasion doomed to failure. Its author, Inspector General Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, identified that there were no policies or contingency plans in place should the invasion have succeeded. Insufficient and poorly managed staff had been assigned to the project, relatively few of whom even spoke Spanish. US intelligence in Cuba had been improperly analysed. There had been little success in organising internal resistance in Cuba, or of involving exiles from the Castro regime or counter-revolutionaries. And the operation had simply been too big: jumping from covert guerrilla action to full-blown military intervention in a way that made 'plausible deniability' impossible.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

● Prelude to invasion

16 April 1961

The US mounts diversionary activities around other Cuban locations, to disguise its true intentions. These include the 'Phony War' of 16 April, around Baracoa and Guantánamo. Cuban revolutionary military forces scramble to meet their US attackers, putting up more of a fight than the US expects.

● Day one

17 April

1,400 US troops, four transport ships and a fleet of smaller fibreglass boats enter the Bay of Pigs. Cuba responds with fighter jets and bombers. US paratroopers are dropped onto the island, but land in a swamp and lose all their equipment. Osvaldo Ramirez, leader of the Cuban resistance against Castro, is captured and summarily executed by Castro's supporters.

● Day two

18 April

Cuban troops, tanks and militia force the invaders and resistance to retreat in several areas. CIA pilots in B-26 bomber planes use bombs, napalm and rockets against Cuban targets, causing civilian casualties alongside their intended police and military victims.

● Day three

19 April

Four US airmen are killed when Cuban forces mount a spirited defence against another CIA air attack. Anti-Castro forces on the ground, with their air support lost and ammunition steadily running out, are forced to retreat in the face of a Cuban onslaught and have to be evacuated. The US withdraws from the invasion.

● The aftermath

20 April onward

US destroyer ships search for survivors along the Cuban coast while intelligence-gathering flights continue. Hundreds of executions take place in Cuba as retaliation against the opposition, and Castro gloats over his prisoners of war. He offers the US a deal to exchange them for tractors. They eventually get food and medicine instead.

America and the decolonising states of Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia in the intervening years, events between the two opponents came to a long-threatened head in Cuba.

The immediate roots of the Cuban Missile Crisis lay in Cuba's regime change of 1959: a revolution that ousted incumbent dictator Fulgencio Batista and installed the communist commander-in-chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Army, Fidel Castro, as prime minister and later president. As supporters of Batista and other Latin American dictators, the US government suddenly found itself on the receiving end of harsh criticism from Castro when he opened diplomatic relations with them. Their response was a failed attempt to assassinate Castro, after which he demanded the complete withdrawal of the US military from Guantánamo Bay. They

refused and remain there; it's the only US military base in a country it doesn't officially recognise.

Castro travelled to the US in the spring of 1959 to meet with President Dwight D. Eisenhower,

but was snubbed by him and met only by

Vice President Richard Nixon. Their

meeting did not go well, and Castro

further alienated the US when

he announced to the United

Nations that Cuba would

maintain a neutral position

in the fractious relationship

between the USA and the

USSR. Subsequent policies

redistributing Cuba's wealth

were predictably unpopular

with Americans, who owned land

there and were seeing it removed

from them at rates of compensation

they were unhappy with. The CIA launched

another failed assassination attempt against

Castro, and the US military began launching secret

bombing raids against Cuban sugar facilities in

"Assassination attempts and attacks on Havana took place, all of which the US officially denied"



Adlai Stevenson showing photos of nuclear missiles in Cuba to the UN Security Council

Strategic Air Command personnel looking at reconnaissance photos



THE LONGEST 13 DAYS IN HISTORY

A day-by-day account of the events of the Cuban Missile Crisis

16 October

President Kennedy and his staff are briefed on reconnaissance photos of Russian missile bases under construction in Cuba. Kennedy maintains his public schedule while covertly discussing whether to launch air strikes or blockade Cuba's coasts.

17 October

Kennedy continues his official public engagements, feeling it important to keep up appearances rather than arouse concern. He has lunch with Crown Prince Hassan of Libya and visits Connecticut to support Democratic election candidates.

18 October

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko insists that Russia's aid to Cuba is purely in the cause of defence and presents no threat to the USA. Kennedy warns Gromyko of grave consequences should Soviet nuclear weapons be found on Cuban soil.

19 October

Kennedy heads out on the congressional campaign trail to Ohio and Illinois, as previously scheduled before the missile crisis surfaced. Debate continues to rage among his advisors as to the best course of action in Cuba as Kennedy travels.

20 October

Kennedy returns to Washington, and after an intense five hours of deliberation, the plan to blockade – or 'quarantine' – Cuba is finally decided upon. Work begins on the military and naval plans, and on drafting a speech to inform the public of the situation.

21 October

Another day of meetings and phone calls on both sides. Tactical Air Commander Walter Sweeney advises Kennedy that an air strike against Cuba could not guarantee the destruction of all the Russian missiles on the ground.



October 1959, targeting one of its most lucrative exports. American attacks on Cuban oil refineries and civilian targets in Havana followed, all of which the US officially denied.

Castro signed a trade deal with Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Anastas Mikoyan in February 1960, hoping it would gain him more leverage in the US. The opposite was true, and Eisenhower, pushed to the limits of his patience with the upstart Cuba, ordered the CIA to overthrow the Republic. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev publicly came out in support of Cuba; America launched yet another three failed Castro assassination attempts, one of them involving the Mafia; and by April of 1961, America had both imposed full trade and economic sanctions against Cuba and undertaken a covert attempted invasion. The newly elected president, John F. Kennedy, continued to deny any such activity, but by now the American press were on the case and the word was out. Khrushchev warned that the Soviets would intervene against any aggression from the

US toward Cuba, and the US, after the death of 200 of its soldiers and the loss of a further thousand as prisoners of war in the Bay of Pigs debacle, was forced to call off its incursion. Kennedy and his government had been thoroughly humiliated.

Beginning to see Kennedy as weak, Khrushchev and the Soviets used the lull to seize an opportunity. In August of 1962, reports began reaching the US from Cuba that Soviet trucks loaded with suspicious equipment had been seen on the island. As retaliation for the US installing its own nuclear missiles close to the USSR, Russia was doing the same in the Caribbean. A sizeable arsenal of SS-4 nuclear warheads had been installed on the island - capable of reaching the US east coast - including the political hub of Washington, DC. While initially claiming they were simply providing non-nuclear surface-to-air missiles for Cuba's defence against its hostile neighbours, Khrushchev's real agenda was to gain a stronger political foothold both against the US and its allies

"The decision to blockade the island was [for legal reasons] sold as a 'quarantine' of Cuba"

● **22 October**
Kennedy informs UK PM Harold MacMillan of the ongoing crisis and writes to Khrushchev. In the letter, Kennedy writes: "Not you or any other sane man would [...] deliberately plunge the world into war which no country could win." He also makes a US television address.

● **23 October**
The US 'quarantine' ships move into place around Cuba, while Soviet submarines lurk nearby. Kennedy asks Khrushchev to prevent any Russian vessels from approaching Cuba. Robert Kennedy visits the Soviet Embassy to meet with their ambassador.

● **24 October**
Khrushchev responds to Kennedy's letters with hostility, complaining the US is using intimidation. "You are no longer appealing to reason," says the Soviet premier. "You are threatening that if we do not give in to your demands you will use force."

● **25 October**
Kennedy writes to Khrushchev urging a Russian withdrawal from Cuba, and rejects UN Secretary General U. Thant's proposal of a 'cooling-off period', as Soviet missiles would remain in Cuba. Heated debates between the US and the USSR take place at the UN.

● **26 October**
Castro writes to Khrushchev urging him not to back down, even if it means making a stand with catastrophic force. But Khrushchev contacts Kennedy to suggest a solution: the USA's removal of its own nuclear weapons from Turkey and Italy in exchange for the USSR's withdrawal from Cuba.

● **27 October**
A US U-2 plane is shot down over Cuban airspace by Soviet missiles, and the pilot is killed. Meanwhile, a Russian submarine with a nuclear warhead aboard is attacked. Robert Kennedy secretly meets with the Soviet ambassador and cautious terms are agreed.

● **28 October**
Radio Moscow announces the USSR has agreed to leave Cuba on the understanding that the US can never again attempt an invasion, and that US WMDs will be removed from sites near Russia. Castro is furious to learn the news from public radio.

in Britain and Europe.

Kennedy's response was to set up EXCOMM - the Executive Committee of the National Security Council - which suggested six options. Doing nothing was obviously impossible, but diplomacy was already not working; threatening Castro generally achieved the opposite of the desired effect; and either war with or the occupation of Cuba was an enormous risk. The ultimate decision, then, was to blockade the island, although for legal reasons (it would be considered an act of war) this was sold as a 'quarantine' of Cuba.

At 7pm on 22 October 1962, Kennedy announced on US television and radio that this 'quarantine' of Cuba was in effect immediately, stopping the shipment of all offensive military equipment to Cuba. 5,000 US troops were

deployed to the Guantánamo base, along with airborne and naval forces. In turn, Castro began to mobilise Cuba's forces, and Khrushchev declared the quarantine to be a hostile manoeuvre, threatening that war with the United States was becoming a very real possibility if the States didn't leave Cuba alone.

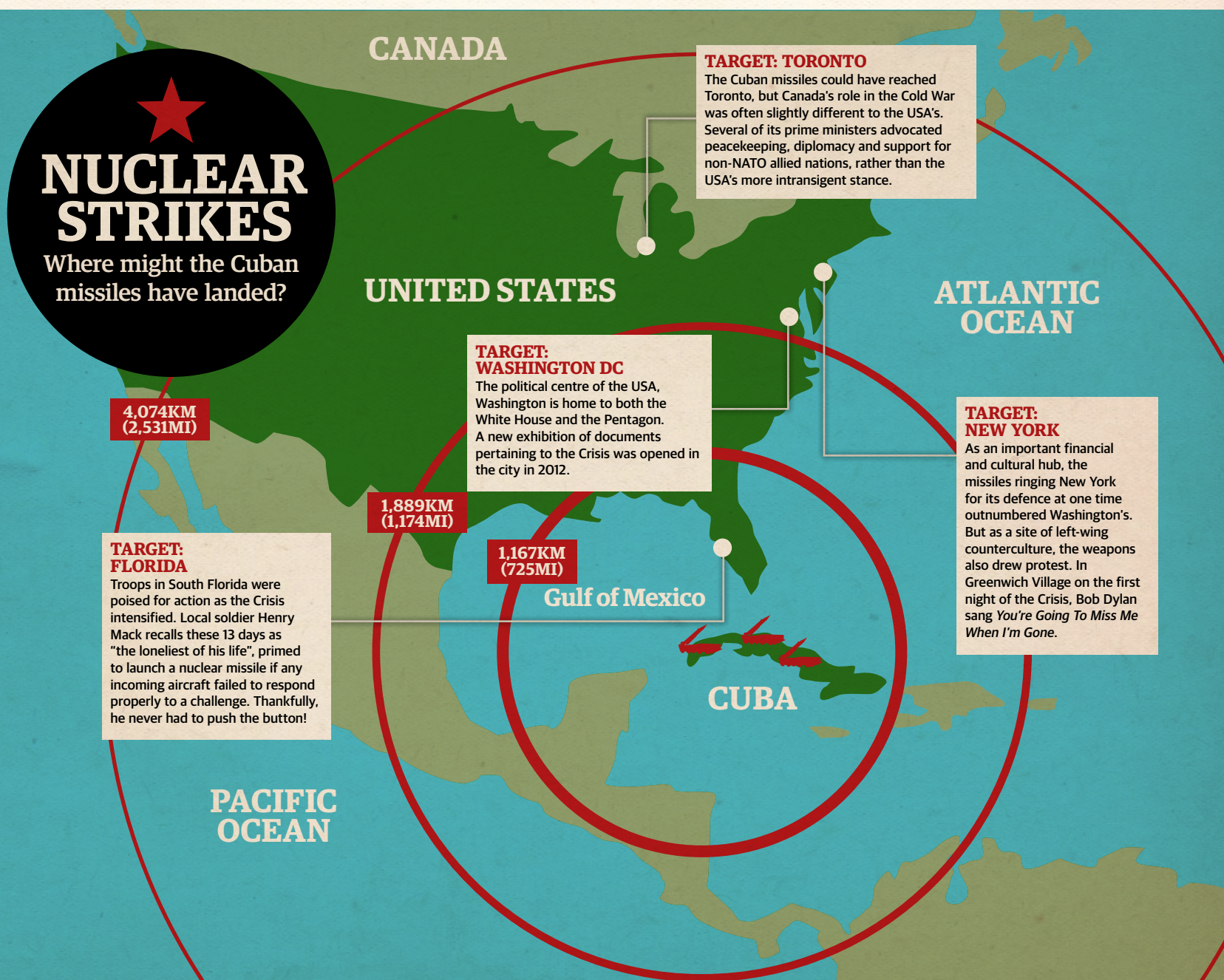
The next day, US planes ascertained that the Soviets were actually performing launch tests on their missiles, leading US ships to take up position off Cuba's coastline, barring any ships from getting any nearer to the island. By 25 October, Kennedy had written to Khrushchev promising full-scale conflict if the Soviets didn't remove their missiles from Cuban soil. Khrushchev's eventual response on 26 October was to suggest a compromise: the USSR would withdraw its nuclear

arsenal in exchange for a legal assurance from the US that it would never invade Cuba again, or support any other country attempting to do so.

Kennedy was willing to use this as the basis for some serious negotiations, but Castro, caught in the middle of the standoff, remained unconvinced, distrustful of Kennedy. He wrote to Khrushchev outlining his belief that the US would eventually invade Cuba regardless of what had been agreed, and giving carte-blanche to the Soviets to remain in Cuba with their missiles, as the island's first best line of defence and deterrent. "I believe the imperialists' aggressiveness is extremely dangerous," said the Cuban prime minister in what's now known as 'The Armageddon Letter'. "If they actually carry out the brutal act of invading Cuba in violation of international law and morality, that would be the moment to eliminate such danger forever through an act of clear legitimate defence, however harsh and terrible the solution would be."

On 27 October the confrontation escalated

"Castro, who had not been consulted, was furious to learn the news of the Soviet withdrawal from the radio"



Cuban Missile Crisis



Kennedy signing the
Cuba Quarantine
Proclamation



These Soviet missiles
were placed in Cuba in
October 1962



A Soviet nuclear missile
being displayed in the Red
Square in Moscow



alarmingly, when US Air Force Major Rudolf Anderson was shot down and killed in his F-102 fighter when he strayed into Cuban airspace. Further US reconnaissance aircraft attempting to ascertain the lie of the land were also fired upon from the ground, while at practically the same time, dangerous events were occurring beneath the waters of the Caribbean. The US naval destroyer USS Beale had tracked down the Soviet submarine B-59 and begun dropping depth charges on it, scoring several hits. However, the Beale's crew didn't know the B-59 was carrying a 15-kiloton nuclear torpedo. Running out of air and surrounded by ships that wouldn't allow it to surface, the B-59's officers came horrendously close to desperately launching their payload before Captain Vasili Arkhipov managed to persuade his comrades to stand down and surrender. He may have saved the world in the process.

As all this was occurring, Kennedy received another letter from Khrushchev offering to withdraw his weapons from Cuba if the US would do the same in Turkey. The attacks on the US planes had not been officially sanctioned by the Russians, but had been on the orders of commanders acting independently. The USSR seemed dangerously close to losing control of its own forces, and if that happened, catastrophic consequences might have been on the cards.

Kennedy replied to Khrushchev accepting his terms: pledging the US would never again invade Cuba if the Russian warheads were removed and, in a private addendum, agreeing to remove the USA's own missiles threatening the USSR from Turkey. Khrushchev revealed later that Kennedy also offered to remove the US's nuclear arsenal

from Italy: a symbolic gesture only since the Italian weapons were obsolete.

At 9am on 28 October, a message from Khrushchev was broadcast on Radio Moscow, stating that work at the Russian weapon sites in Cuba would cease immediately, and that the arsenal would be dismantled and returned to the USSR. A relieved Kennedy responded immediately, promising to honour the agreement and calling

Khrushchev's decision "an important and constructive contribution to peace."

Castro, who had not been consulted by either side, was furious to learn the news from the radio.

The US 'quarantine' of Cuba didn't end immediately, with aerial reconnaissance continuing to monitor whether the Soviets were packing up as promised.

These missions were thankfully uneventful, and the Russian missiles and their supporting equipment were successfully loaded onto eight ships, leaving Cuban waters

between 5 and 9 November. The blockade officially ended on 20 November and the USA removed its nuclear missiles from Turkey the following April. Castro may have been angry, and Soviet-Cuban relations significantly cooled, but the fact was that his position had been thoroughly strengthened by the Crisis. The US couldn't now attack Cuba - or Castro personally - without breaking the terms of their own peace treaty and risking the full weight of Russian reprisal.

In the aftermath of the Crisis, the Moscow-Washington hotline was set up, directly connecting the two political superpowers to facilitate easier negotiation should such a dire situation ever occur again. Major Rudolf Anderson remained the only combatant killed during the standoff (although a

"The B-59's officers came horrendously close to desperately launching their payload"



EXCOMM meets to discuss tactics on 26 October 1962

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

The three leaders state their cases



"In our discussions and exchanges [...] the one thing that has most concerned me has been the possibility that your government would not correctly understand the will and determination of the United States in any given situation, since I have not assumed that you or any other sane man would, in this nuclear age, deliberately

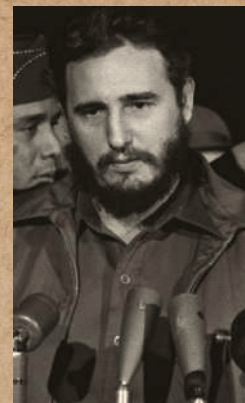
plunge the world into war which it is crystal clear no country could win and which could only result in catastrophic consequences to the whole world."

Kennedy to Khrushchev, 22 Oct 1962



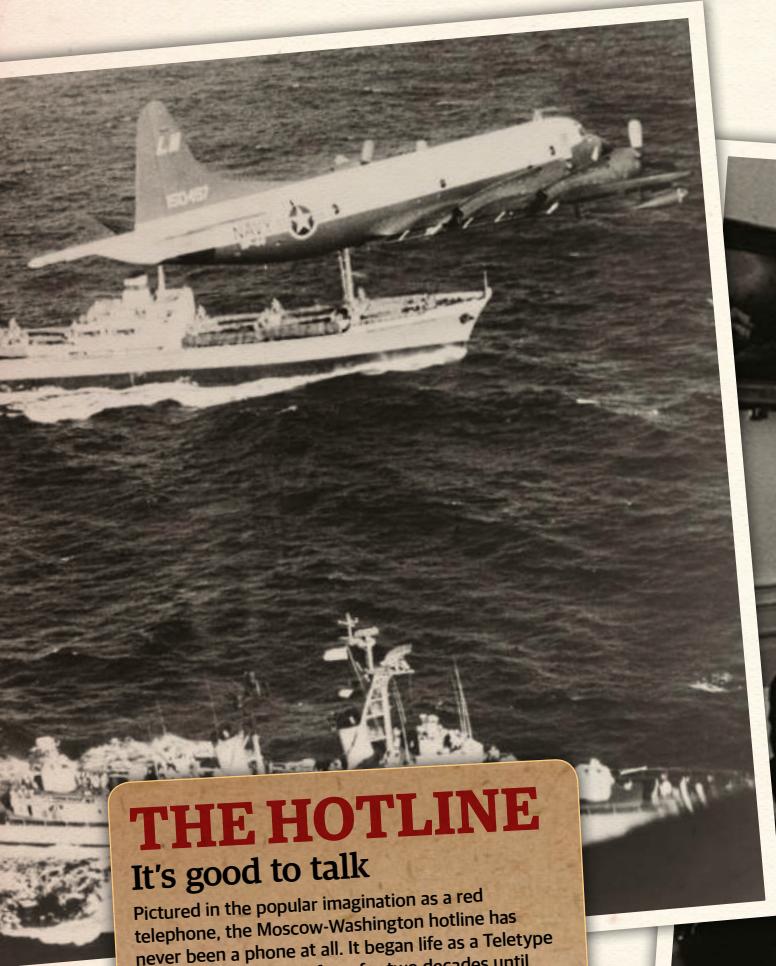
"You, Mr President, are not declaring a quarantine, but rather are setting forth an ultimatum and threatening that if we do not give in to your demands you will use force. Consider what you are saying! And you want to persuade me to agree to this! [...] You are no longer appealing to reason, but wish to intimidate us."

Khrushchev to JFK, 24 Oct 1962



"The Soviet Union must never allow circumstances in which the imperialists could carry out a nuclear first strike against it. [If] the imperialists carry out an invasion of Cuba - a brutal act in violation of universal and moral law - then that would be the moment to eliminate this danger forever, in an act of the most legitimate self-defence. However harsh and terrible the solution, there would be no

other." Castro to Khrushchev, 26 Oct 1962



THE HOTLINE

It's good to talk

Pictured in the popular imagination as a red telephone, the Moscow-Washington hotline has never been a phone at all. It began life as a Teletype system, and kept that form for two decades until it was replaced with fax machines. Since 2008 it's been a secure computer link for email messages. The hotline was set up immediately after the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1963, linking the Pentagon directly to the Kremlin, so that immediate communication can begin should any hostilities or 'misunderstandings' arise. During the Crisis it dangerously often took many hours for the US to translate and decode Khrushchev's messages.

While it seems like a sensible idea, Kennedy was criticised by the Republican Party of the time over the hotline's implementation. The accusation was that Kennedy would alienate his "proven allies" by speaking to his "sworn enemies" first!



Kennedy meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on 18 October 1962

further 18 personnel died in crashes and accidents) and his body was returned to the States and buried in South Carolina with full military honours.

While Castro was reasonably secure, neither the US nor the USSR came out of the Crisis covered in glory. Khrushchev remained in power in the Soviet Union for two more years, but his eventual ousting was directly attributable to the embarrassment he and his country had suffered in Cuba, and the Politburo's perception of him as having managed the situation ineptly.

Meanwhile, while the US publicly attempted to sell the outcome as a victory, it was also conflicted. US Air Force General Curtis Le May for example, although his was a minority opinion, called the Cuban Missile Crisis "the greatest defeat in [US] history." Le May had stridently argued for an invasion of Cuba from the earliest moments of the crisis, and continued to do so after the Russians' withdrawal. "We could have gotten not only the missiles out of Cuba, we could have gotten the

Communists out of Cuba at that time," he was still railing 25 years later.

In the end, it was perhaps humanity itself that won the Cuban Missile Crisis, receiving in the process a desperately urgent wake-up call that the balance of international power was being juggled between two super-states who had the capacity to annihilate one another at a moment's notice, likely taking almost everyone else with them. Conservative estimates suggest casualties of a nuclear war between the US and the USSR would have numbered in the hundreds of millions.

Scarily enough, however, the famous Doomsday Clock, which provides a symbolic, visual representation in 'minutes to midnight' of how

close the world is at any given time to a politically related global catastrophe, didn't move during the Crisis, since it happened faster than the clock's

board could react. Immediately before the Crisis it stood at seven minutes to midnight, and afterward it moved back to 12, the world deemed a safer place thanks to the treaty. Today, the Doomsday Clock's hands stand at five minutes to midnight, 'thanks' to the lack of global action to reduce nuclear stockpiles, the potential for regional conflict, and the effects of avoidable climate change. The idea of mutually assured destruction may in modern times feel like an anachronism belonging firmly in the past. But some sources suggest it's closer than ever.

"Khrushchev was seen as having backed away from circumstances he had initiated in the first place"

"I have a dream"

The blood, sweat and tears behind the iconic speech

DEFINING MOMENT

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S SPEECH,
28 AUGUST 1963

A defining moment in the American Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King Jr's speech to over 250,000 helped galvanise support for change.

"I have a dream"

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR **American, 1929-1968**

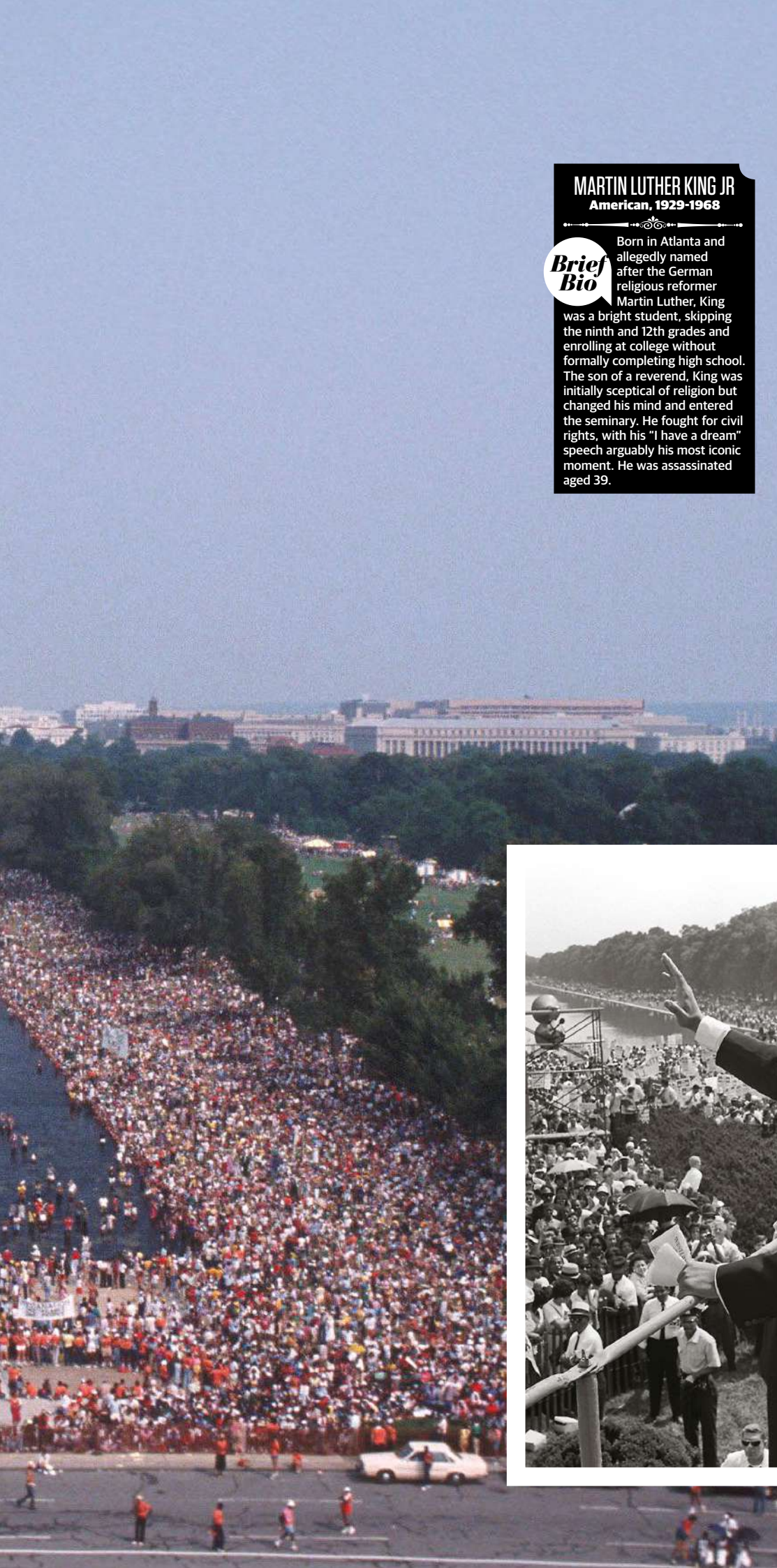
Brief Bio

Born in Atlanta and allegedly named after the German religious reformer Martin Luther, King was a bright student, skipping the ninth and 12th grades and enrolling at college without formally completing high school. The son of a reverend, King was initially sceptical of religion but changed his mind and entered the seminary. He fought for civil rights, with his "I have a dream" speech arguably his most iconic moment. He was assassinated aged 39.

Martin Luther King, the pastor who believed in nonviolent protest, addressed the hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Washington, DC with these words: "I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation." The date was 28 August 1963 and while he spoke confidently, no one really knew how significant his role and the words he was yet to speak, sharing his iconic dream, would be in bringing it to life.

The day's events - known officially as The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom - had been in planning since December 1962. An original focus on unemployment among the black population had swiftly expanded to include the broader issue of segregation and discrimination, and soon a programme of speeches, song and prayer had been arranged, reflecting a powerful vision of racial equality. Dr Martin Luther King - the man now synonymous with the march and arguably black history itself - was last on the bill.

Proceedings started early. Word of the march had spread far and wide, and at 8am the first of 21 chartered trains arrived in the capital, followed by more than 2,000 buses and ten aeroplanes - all in addition to standard scheduled public transport. Around 1,000 people - black and white - poured into Lincoln Memorial every five minutes, including a number of well-known celebrities, which gave the march extra visibility. Charlton Heston and Burt Lancaster were among the demonstrators, as was





Gandhi's influence

While the two never met in person, King derived a great deal of inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's success in nonviolent protest, and so in 1959, made the journey to Bombay (now known as Mumbai).

King and his entourage were greeted with a warm welcome: "Virtually every door was open to us", King later recorded. He noted that Indian people "love to listen to the Negro spirituals", and so his wife, Coretta, ended up singing to crowds as often as King lectured.

The trip affected King deeply. In a radio broadcast made on his last night in India, he said: "Since being in India, I am more convinced than ever before that the method of nonviolent resistance is the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for justice and human dignity."



King gave his speech to just under a quarter of a million people

"King was a man who had endured death threats, bomb scares, multiple arrests and prison sentences"

Marlon Brando, brandishing an electric cattle prod - a less-than-subtle symbol of police brutality. Soon speakers were preparing to give their speeches to an audience of a quarter of a million, a far greater number than the 100,000 hoped for.

The growing crowd buzzed with hope and optimism, but undercurrents of unease also rippled through the throng. Against a backdrop of violent civil-rights protests elsewhere around the country, President Kennedy had been reluctant to allow the march to go ahead, fearing an atmosphere of unrest. Despite the organisers' promise of a peaceful protest, the Pentagon had readied thousands of troops in the suburbs and nearly 6,000 police

officers patrolled the area. Liquor sales were banned throughout the city, hospitals stockpiled blood plasma and cancelled elective surgeries, and prisoners were moved to other facilities - measures taken to prepare for the civil disobedience many thought an inevitable consequence of the largest march of its kind in US history.

Many of those attending the march feared for their own safety but turned up on that warm August day because of how important they believed it was for their country, which was being ripped apart at the seams by race. In his book, *Like a Mighty Stream*, Patrik Henry Bass reported that demonstrator John Marshall Kilimanjaro, who

The long road to civil rights in america

- 1619 **First known slaves**
The first known instance of African slavery in the fledgling English Colonial America is recorded.
- 1712 **New York Slave Revolt**
A group of 23 enslaved Africans kill nine white people. More than 70 blacks are arrested and 21 subsequently executed. After the uprising, the laws governing black people are made more restrictive.
- 1780 **A minor victory**
Pennsylvania becomes the first state in the newly-formed United States to abolish slavery by law.
- 1790-1810 **Manumission of slaves**
Slaveholders in the upper south free their slaves following the revolution, and the percentage of free blacks rises from one per cent to ten per cent.
- 1863 **The Emancipation Proclamation**
President Abraham Lincoln proclaims the freedom of blacks still in slavery across ten states - around 3.1 million people.
- 1865 **Black Codes**
Black Codes are passed across the United States - but most notoriously in the south - restricting the freedom of black people and condemning them to low-paid labour.

travelled to the march from Greensboro, North Carolina, said that many attending the march felt afraid. "We didn't know what we would meet. There was no precedent. Sitting across from me was a black preacher with a white collar. We talked. Every now and then, people on the bus sang *Oh Freedom* and *We Shall Overcome*, but for the most part there wasn't a whole bunch of singing. We were secretly praying that nothing violent happened."

Kilimanjaro travelled over 480 kilometres (300 miles) to attend the march. Many from Birmingham, Alabama - where King was a particularly prominent figure - travelled for more than 20 hours by bus, covering 1,200 kilometres (750 miles). Attendees had invested a great deal of time, money and hope in the march, and anticipation - nervous or otherwise - was high.

The headline speaker, Martin Luther King, prominent activist, revered pastor and diligent president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) had yet to finalise his speech, despite retiring to bed at 4am the previous night after a long and wearied debate with his advisors. "The logistical preparations for the march were so burdensome that the speech was not a priority for us", King's confidante and speechwriter Clarence B Jones has since admitted.

It wasn't until the evening before the march that seven individuals, including Jones, gathered together with King to give their input on the final remarks. It was Jones' job to take notes and turn them into a powerful address that would captivate



One of the many trains from New York arrives at Washington's Union Station for the march



Clarence Jones, one of King's speech writers



Folk singers Joan Baez and Bob Dylan singing at the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington

1876-1960

Jim Crow Laws

The enactment of racial segregation laws create 'separate but equal' status for African Americans, whose conditions were often inferior to those provided for white Americans.

1964

The Civil Rights Act

One of the most sweeping pieces of equality legislation seen in the US, the Civil Rights Act prohibited discrimination of any kind and gave federal government the power to enforce desegregation.

1991

A stronger act

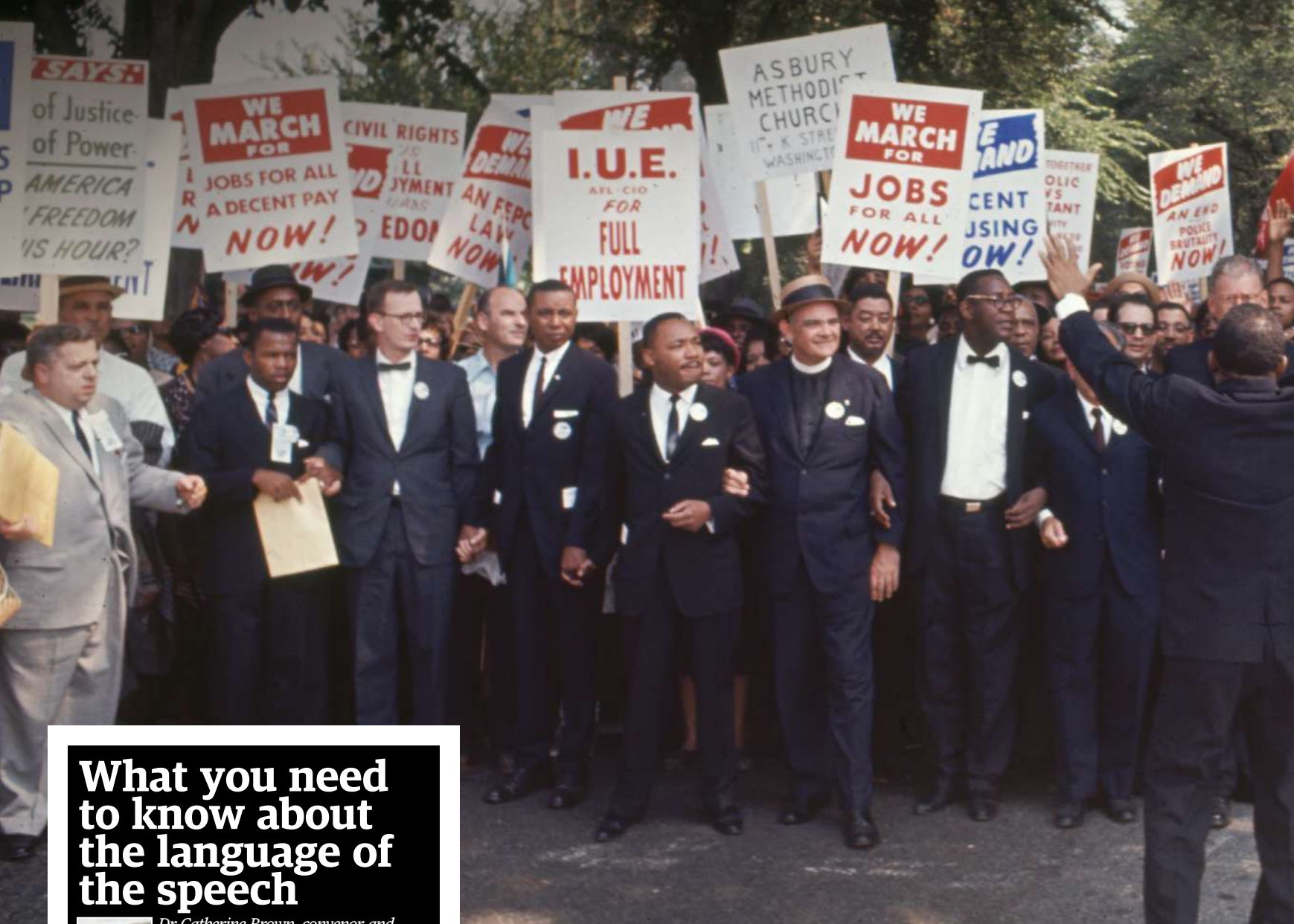
President George HW Bush finally signs the Civil Rights Act of 1991, which strengthens existing civil-rights law - but only after two years of debates and vetoes.



2009

The first black president

Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th president of the United States - the first African American in history to become the US president.



What you need to know about the language of the speech



Dr Catherine Brown, convenor and senior lecturer in English, New College of the Humanities

- "The speech derives its power from a combination of disparate elements.

On one hand, it is addressed to a particular time and place, and emphasises this fact: the situation is urgent; now is the time change must happen. On the other, the speech is dense with allusions to the *Bible* and foundational American documents and speeches.

- King is explicitly saying that the Emancipation Proclamation is a 'bad check' that has yet to be honoured in regard to 'the Negro people', and the speech calls on that cheque to be honoured.

- The other texts he refers to were not written by black people, but by using their phrases and rhythms he is asserting his place - and the black person's place - in the cultural, intellectual, and political tradition that they're part of. In his very words, he is not allowing himself to be 'separate but equal.'

- Behind the rhetoric of all these American texts is that of the King James translation of the *Bible*, and the rhetoric of Ancient Greek and Roman orators. Both empires, and the authors of the *Bible*, are multi-ethnic; white supremacy would have been foreign to them."

"In a heartbeat, King had done away with his formal address and began to preach from his heart his vision"

the hearts and minds of the nation - no mean feat as everyone at the meeting had a significant stake in the speech and wanted their voice to be heard. "I tried to summarise the various points made by all of his supporters", wrote Jones in his book, *Behind the Dream*. "It was not easy; voices from every compass point were ringing in my head." According to Jones, King soon became frustrated, telling his advisors: "I am now going upstairs to my room to counsel with my Lord. I will see you tomorrow."

No doubt the magnitude of the task at hand weighed heavily on King's mind that night as he tried to rest. By this point, King was a well-known political figure, but few outside the black church and activism circles had heard him speak publicly at length. With the relatively newfangled television networks preparing to project his image into the homes of millions, King knew that he must seize the unprecedented platform for civil rights.

When he was finally called to the podium, it was clear King's placement on the bill had put him at an immediate disadvantage. An oppressively hot

day was quickly draining the crowd's enthusiasm and many had already left the march in order to make their long journeys home. A state-of-the-art sound system had been brought in for the day, but an act of sabotage before the event meant that even with help from the US Army Signal Corps in fixing it, some of the crowd struggled to hear the speakers. But King was a man who had endured death threats, bomb scares, multiple arrests, prison sentences and constant intimidation in his pursuit for equality; he would not be undone by unfortunate circumstance.

Placing his typed yet scrawl-covered notes on the lectern, King began to speak, deftly and passionately, invoking the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation and the US Constitution. Early on, he gave a nod toward Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address ("Five score years ago..."), an equally iconic speech that, 100 years previously, set down the then-president's vision for human equality. King used rhythmic language, religious metaphor and the repetition



Many of the leaders of the protest are held back before the March on Washington

The King's Speech: By the numbers

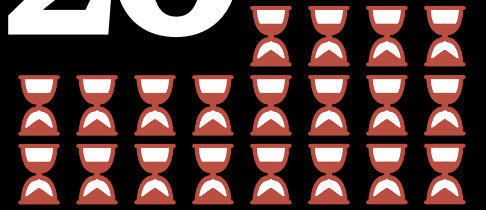
11 times King says the word 'dream'



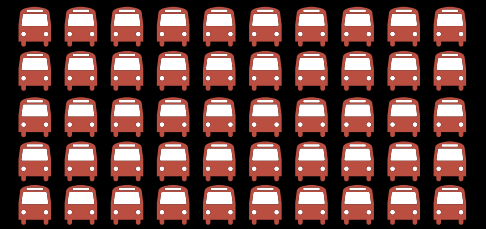
17 minutes - the length of the speech



20 hours spent on a bus by many travelling to the march



100 Buses arriving per hour by 8am



5,900

police officers on duty



250,000 people at the march



In the papers

Newspapers around the country brandished mixed headlines following King's speech. While many reported on the march's orderly and peaceful nature, several complained of the event's effects on traffic and transport in the area. Others, perhaps deliberately, gave the march only a few column inches, referring to it as a 'racial march' rather than a call for equality.

This front page from the *Eugene Register Guard* reflects the apprehension felt by many at the time. "Massive Negro Demonstration 'Only a Beginning'" is somewhat scare mongering, implying the US should be fearful of the black population. The strapline "No Evidence of any Effect on Congress", meanwhile, seems to purposely undermine the efforts of those involved in the march.



of a phrase at the beginning of each sentence: "One hundred years later..." he cries, highlighting Lincoln's failed dream. "We cannot be satisfied..." he announces, boldly declaring that "America has given the Negro people a bad check."

Jones, watching King captivate the crowd, breathed a sigh of relief. "A pleasant shock came over me as I realised that he seemed to be essentially reciting those suggested opening paragraphs I had scrawled down the night before in my hotel room", he reveals in *Behind the Dream*.

Then something unscripted happened. During a brief pause, gospel singer Mahalia Jackson, who had performed earlier in the day, shouted "Tell 'em about the dream, Martin!" King pushed his notes to one side and stood tall in front of his audience. Jones, sensing what was about to happen, told the person next to him, "These people out there today don't know it yet, but they're about to go to church."

In a heartbeat, King had done away with his formal address and began to preach from his heart his vision, his dream, which came to represent a



Civil-rights leaders of the March on Washington meet with John F Kennedy in the Oval Office, 28 August 1963

"King was targeted as a major enemy of the US and subjected to extensive surveillance and wiretapping by the FBI"

legacy that would change civil rights forever. "I have a dream", he said, in one of the speech's most famous lines, "that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."

"Aw, sh**", remarked Walker Wyatt, another of King's advisors. "He's using the dream." Wyatt had previously advised King to stay away from his dream rhetoric. "It's trite, it's cliché. You've used it too many times already", he warned. Indeed, King had used the refrain on several occasions before at fundraisers and rallies but, crucially, in the days before mass media it had not been publicised. To the millions watching on TV and in person, the speech was as original as they come.

When King had talked about his 'dream' before, it had been generally well received, but certainly hadn't been groundbreaking. This time, however, it was different: thousands upon thousands of listening voices cried out in approval and unity, and King's final line: "Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty - we are free at last!" was met with a rapturous standing ovation from the enormous crowd.

King's speech was a defining moment in black history and the fight for civil rights. "Though he was extremely well known before he stepped up to the lectern," Jones wrote, "he had stepped down on the other side of history." Even President Kennedy, no mean orator himself, reportedly turned to an aide and remarked: "He's damned good."

However, the clout of King's address was not entirely positive. The Federal Bureau of Intelligence (FBI) was wary of King's activities, and its director J Edgar Hoover considered King to be a dangerous radical. Two days after the march, FBI agent William C Sullivan wrote a memo about King's increasing sway: "In the light of King's powerful demagogic speech yesterday he stands head and shoulders above all other Negro leaders put together when it comes to influencing great masses of Negroes. We must mark him now, if we have not done so before, as the most dangerous Negro [...] in this nation from the standpoint of communism, the Negro and national security."

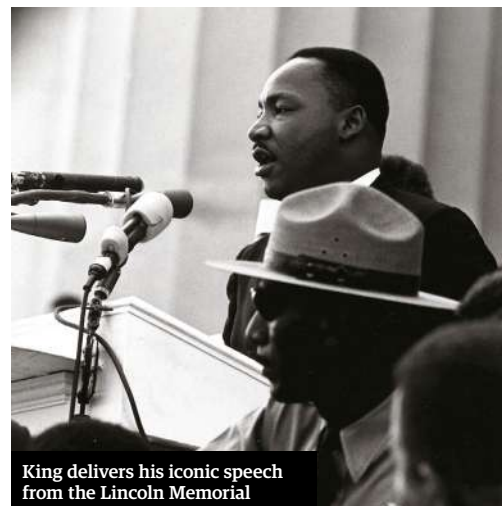
From this point on, King was targeted as a major enemy of the US and subjected to extensive surveillance and wiretapping by the FBI. According to Marshall Frady in his biography, *Martin Luther*

Kennedy and King

King never publicly endorsed any political candidate, but did reveal in 1960 he "felt that Kennedy would make the best president".

Many claim Kennedy owed his presidency to King after securing his release from prison following a protest in Atlanta, Georgia - a gesture that helped gain a large proportion of the black vote. But when the pair discussed the possibility of a second Emancipation Proclamation, Kennedy was slow to act.

Kennedy was caught between opposing forces: on one side, his belief in equality, and on the other, a preoccupation with foreign threats such as communism.



King delivers his iconic speech from the Lincoln Memorial



The March was attended by around 250,000 supporters

King Jr: A Life, the FBI even sent King intercepted recordings of his extramarital affairs in a thinly-veiled attempt, King believed, to intimidate and drive him to suicide.

It seems incredible to believe, but contemporary criticism not only came from the establishment, but from King's peers. Civil-rights activist and author Anne Moody made the trip to Washington DC from Mississippi for the march and recalls: "I sat on the grass and listened to the speakers, to discover we had 'dreamers' instead of leaders leading us. Just about every one of them stood up there dreaming. Martin Luther King went on and on talking about his dream. I sat there thinking that in Canton we never had time to sleep, much less dream."

Human-rights activist Malcolm X also famously condemned the march, as well as Dr King's speech itself. Allegedly dubbing the event "the farce on Washington", he later wrote in his autobiography: "Who ever heard of angry revolutionaries swinging their bare feet together with their oppressor in lily pad pools, with gospels and guitars and 'I have a dream' speeches?"

Whatever some of the critics might have said, though, there was no doubt that King's speech singled him out as a leader. His oration has been lauded as one of the greatest of the 20th century, earned him the title of 'Man of the Year' by *Time Magazine*, and subsequently led to him receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. At the time, he was the youngest person to have been awarded the honour.

Most importantly, though, both the march and King's speech initiated debate and paved the way for genuine and tangible civil-rights reforms, putting racial equality at the top of the agenda. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 - landmark legislation that outlawed discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex or national origin - was enacted less than a year after King shared his dream.

Halfway through the speech, before doing away with his notes, Martin Luther King Jr declared to his thousands of brothers and sisters in the crowd: "We cannot walk alone." That he spoke from his heart in such a poetic and unrepentant way ensured that, in the coming years, nobody did.

The speech's legacy

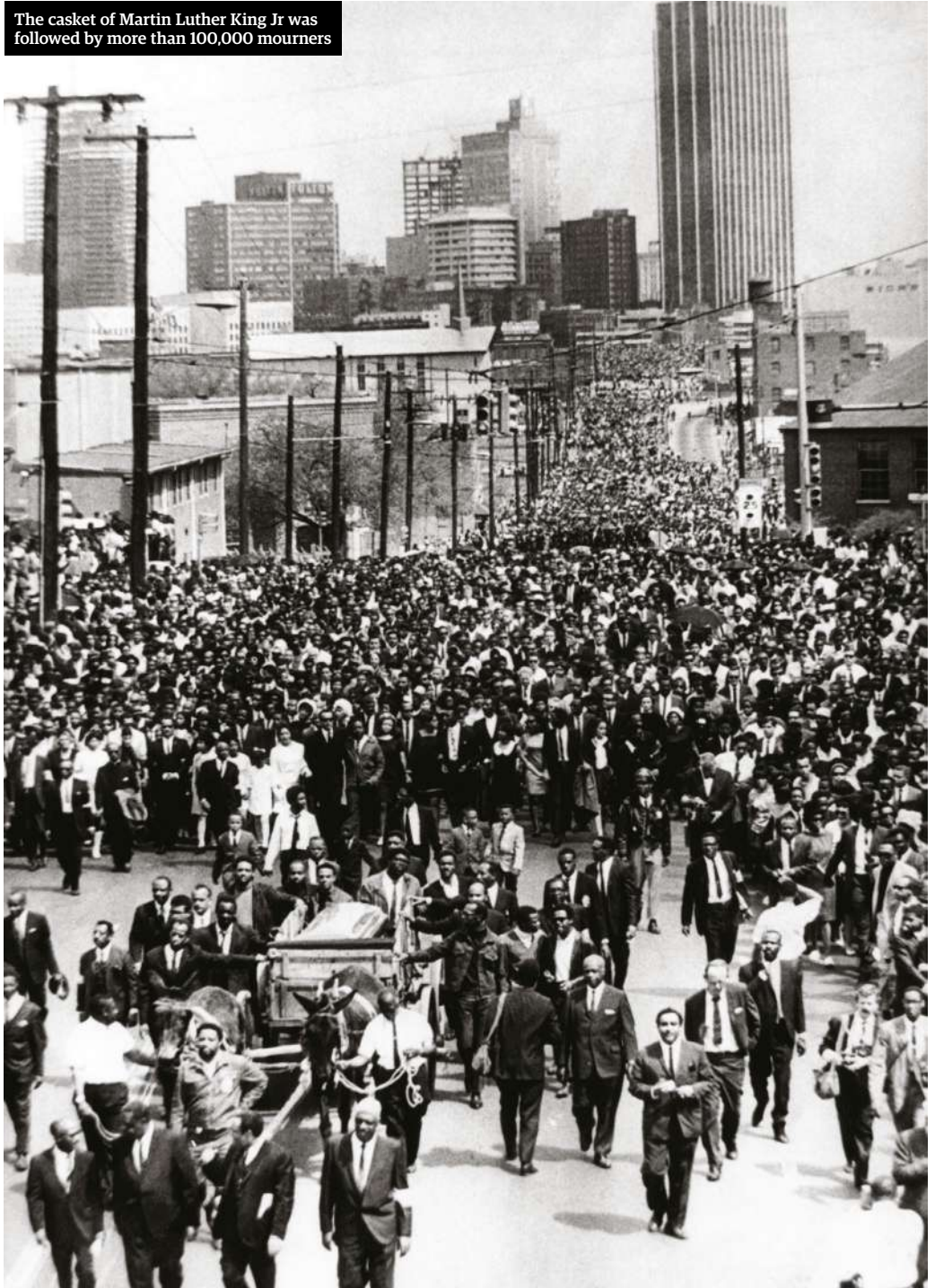
Despite the success of King's speech, his address was largely forgotten afterwards, due to the speed of subsequent events, and to King's increasing disillusionment with his dream. He said that it had "turned into a nightmare." According to William P Jones, author of *The March On Washington*, in the mid-1960s "most people would not have said it was the most powerful speech ever."

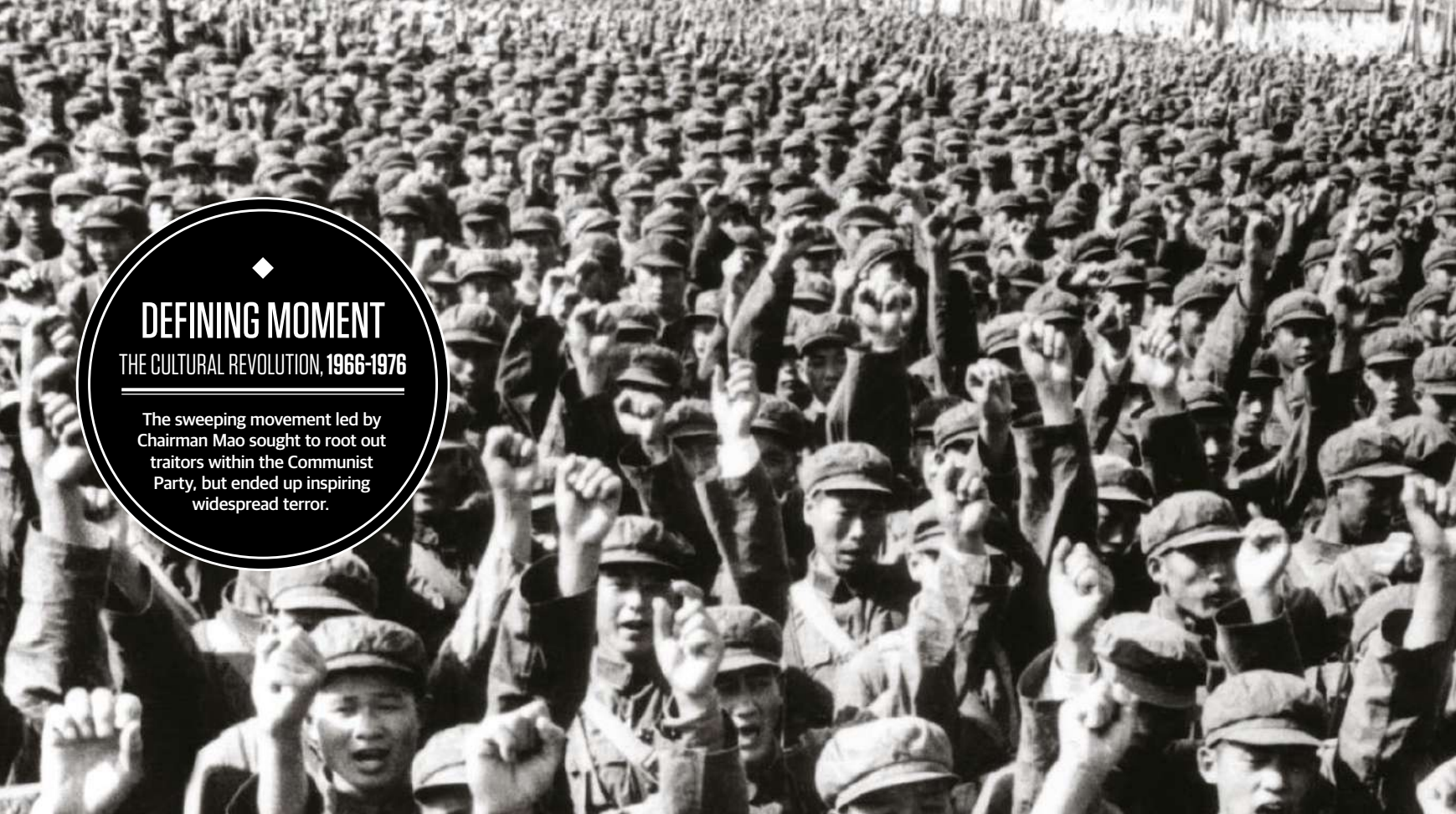
King's assassination led the nation to rediscover his speech, yet remarkably the full speech did

not appear in writing until 15 years later, when a transcript was published in the *Washington Post*.

The original copy of the speech is currently owned by George Raveling. The then-26-year-old basketball player had volunteered at the last minute as a bodyguard during the march, and after King's speech asked him if he could have his notes. Raveling has been offered as much as £1.8 million (\$3 million) for the original copy, but he says he has no intention of selling it.

The casket of Martin Luther King Jr was followed by more than 100,000 mourners





DEFINING MOMENT

THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, 1966-1976

The sweeping movement led by Chairman Mao sought to root out traitors within the Communist Party, but ended up inspiring widespread terror.

MAO'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

In the 1960s, China's youth rebelled in their millions. Believing they were saving the world, they were actually unwitting pawns in a devious politician's game

In April 1968, people in the British colony of Hong Kong noticed hundreds of mysterious objects drifting into Victoria Harbour. At first it was believed they were sacks that seemed to be flowing into the waterway from rivers in mainland China. As these objects grew closer, however, it became clear that they weren't sacks at all, but something altogether more sinister.

James Lilley, then a CIA operative working at the US Consulate General in Hong Kong, recalled: "In a city called Wuzhou to the north there'd been a huge factional battle in which people were executed by the winning side. They'd tied their

hands behind their backs, shot them and pushed them in the river. These bodies floated down into Hong Kong, we could see them floating down..."

Terrifying rumours had been emerging from China for months that the country was in chaos, and the bloated corpses that choked up Victoria Harbour confirmed the worst. With the support of China's army, gangs of youths known as the Red Guard were roaming the land torching schools, destroying offices, and attacking - often killing - anyone who got in their way. There were even reports of cannibalism. In the southern Chinese province of Guangxi, at least 137 people were

killed, cooked and devoured in punishment for the crime - real or imagined - of being against the country's absolute ruler Chairman Mao.

The young fanatics who made up Mao's Red Guard had been primed since birth by his teachings. The tidal wave of terror they now unleashed upon the nation was - they believed - integral to what their idol was calling the Cultural Revolution. Little did they suspect that they had actually been duped and were simply pawns in Mao's scheme to save his political skin. Or indeed that, when the time came, he would cynically destroy them, too.

MAO ZEDONG – THE BOOKISH REVOLUTIONARY

Mao Zedong was a librarian turned revolutionary. Born in 1893 into a peasant family, he moved to Beijing in 1919 where he found work in the city's university library, and became a co-founder of China's Communist Party (CCP). By 1927, the CCP's activities had become so troublesome that China's nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek went after them. Mao would spend the next 22 years at war, first against Chiang Kai-shek and then Japan, which, in 1937, invaded China.

As his military victories mounted, Mao's fame as an inspirational leader spread and a vast movement of largely peasant revolutionaries grew around him. By 1949, this army of farmers had booted the Japanese out, and chased Chiang's nationalists off the mainland to Taiwan. It now endorsed Mao as leader of the newly established People's Republic of China. More than 20 million Chinese had been killed in fighting during the previous two decades, and Mao's speeches now seemed to offer real hope to a people who had suffered terribly. That hope, though, was to be short lived.

According to Marxist theory, for a communist society to succeed it must emerge from an industrialised, capitalist economy – not a rural, feudal one, which China's largely was. Mao's solution to this, like Stalin's before him in Soviet Russia, was to rush the country towards industrialisation. In 1958, he launched a huge social engineering project he called the Great Leap Forward – it was an unmitigated disaster. Overnight, millions of Chinese farmers were turned into steelworkers and miners. With few left to tend the fields, the harvests failed. Upwards of 38 million starved to death and as the death toll rose, so did opposition to Mao's policies among the communist leadership. It was this opposition and Mao's refusal to admit he was wrong that sowed the seeds of the turmoil to come.

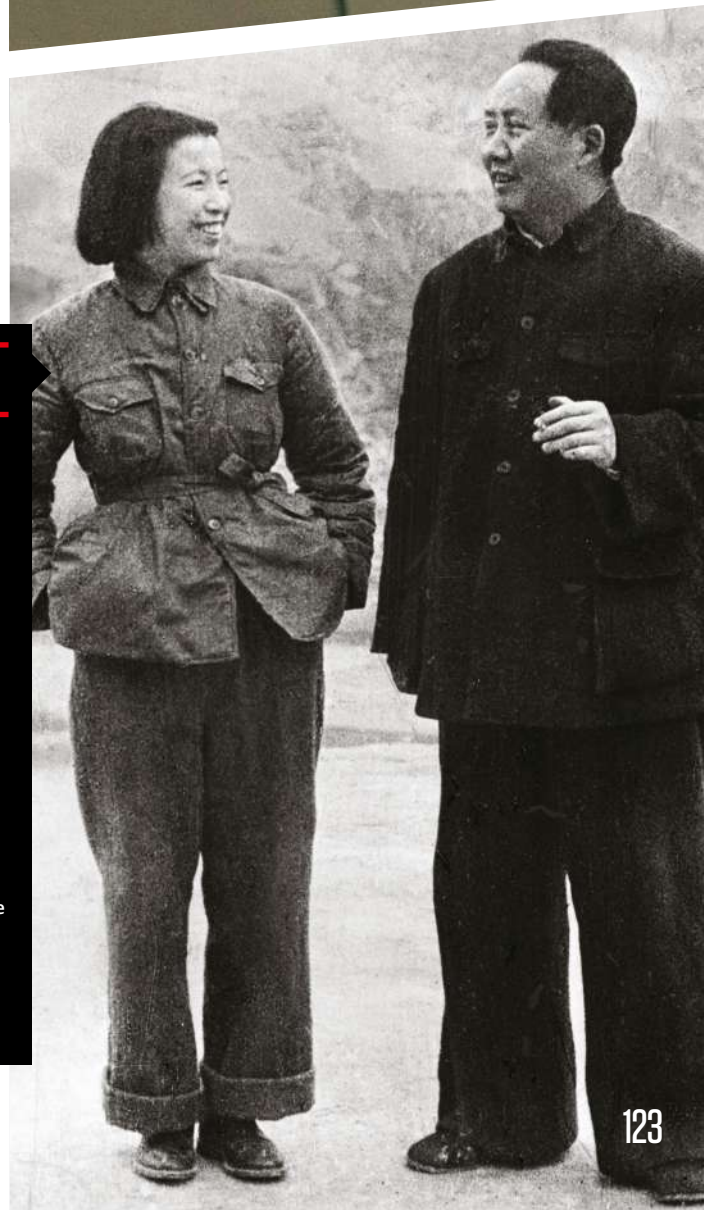
MADAME MAO TAKES A BOW

By 1960, Mao's former allies in the CCP, men such as Deng Xiaoping, wanted closer ties with Russia – and Mao gone. Toppling the revolution's poster boy was never going to be an option, though, so instead they tried to sideline him by turning him into an empty icon with no real power.

But the shrewd and politically calculating Mao wasn't about to forsake his empire. Revolution had brought him to power, he reasoned, and revolution could help him retain it – this time in the form of a cultural one. To help him, Mao turned to his (fourth) wife Jiang Qing, also known as Madame Mao.

This former film star was seen by the public as their leader's glamorous and devoted wife. In private, however, their marriage was a loveless sham and she a bad-tempered schemer. Nevertheless, he trusted her, and as culture was her forte, she'd be ideal to stage manage his Cultural Revolution. In May 1966, he announced the politicisation of the arts, and appointed Madame Mao artistic adviser to the army. She immediately set about attacking artists and banning works she deemed 'capitalist'.

China was subjected to Madame Mao's censorship and propaganda campaign for the next ten years. All art from other countries was outlawed, while a billion people were encouraged to watch the few indoctrinating films and plays she would endorse. Every one of these saccharine works carried the same message – sacrificing yourself for the revolution is an honourable act. For an entire generation of Chinese children, it was the most powerful idea their young minds were exposed to as they became hard wired to kill and to die for the cult of Chairman Mao.



IN NUMBERS

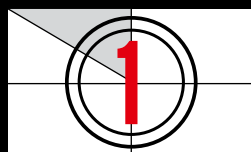
27 MILLION

'class traitors' were worked to death in Laogai (re-education) camps



18.77 MILLION

guns were in civilian hands during the factional fighting



film per year was released by Madame Mao's propaganda machine

68,000

Beijing citizens were subject to Struggle Sessions in a single month (July-August 1968)



months - how long the Cultural Revolution's mass killings went on for

4,922

places of "historical or cultural interest" were destroyed in Beijing alone

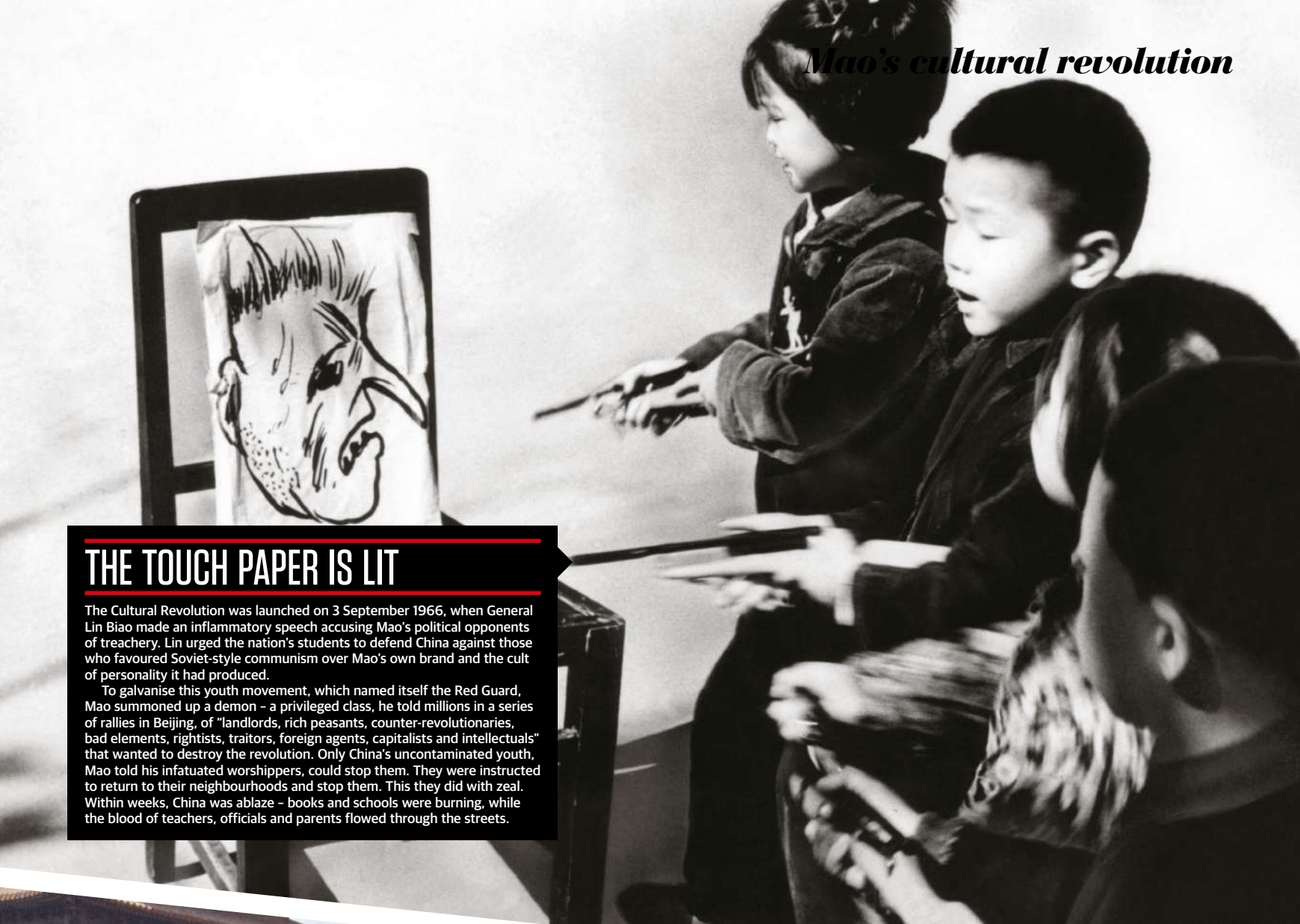
77

the age Madame Mao was when she died in prison in 1991, allegedly by her own hand

THE BILLION-SELLING LITTLE RED BOOK

While China's youth would be the agents of Mao's Cultural Revolution, its military would be his muscle. In 1964, chief of the People's Army (PLA) Lin Biao produced a handbook of Mao's teachings that became known as *The Little Red Book*. When Mao shrewdly named Lin as his successor in August 1966, Lin responded by heavily promoting it.

Alongside the AK-47, the book became standard issue in China's 2 million-strong army, and under Lin's orders, about a billion were printed. Filled with Mao's aphorisms - such as, "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun" - it became Cold War China's bible.



THE TOUGH PAPER IS LIT

The Cultural Revolution was launched on 3 September 1966, when General Lin Biao made an inflammatory speech accusing Mao's political opponents of treachery. Lin urged the nation's students to defend China against those who favoured Soviet-style communism over Mao's own brand and the cult of personality it had produced.

To galvanise this youth movement, which named itself the Red Guard, Mao summoned up a demon – a privileged class, he told millions in a series of rallies in Beijing, of “landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements, rightists, traitors, foreign agents, capitalists and intellectuals” that wanted to destroy the revolution. Only China's uncontaminated youth, Mao told his infatuated worshippers, could stop them. They were instructed to return to their neighbourhoods and stop them. This they did with zeal. Within weeks, China was ablaze – books and schools were burning, while the blood of teachers, officials and parents flowed through the streets.



THE RED GUARD – MAO'S AGENTS OF CHANGE

In the 1960s, young people all over the world were in open rebellion against their parents and governments, as the Vietnam War raged and the arms race escalated. Nowhere was this rebellion fiercer than in China, but with one crucial difference – the revolt was created by the country's leader so he could cling to power. Dressed in green jackets similar to those worn by the army and sporting red armbands, millions of children and young people persecuted, attacked and often killed local party officials, teachers, intellectuals and anyone found without *The Little Red Book*. The Red Guards, as they were known, suddenly found themselves with unprecedented power over the adult population. All they needed to get it was to swear allegiance to Mao. Amid the pandemonium that had been unleashed, Mao got his way as his harshest critics in the CCP were swept away in a savage orgy of cruelty. By the time the purge was over, just 30 of its 90-strong Central Committee remained. To quote the Red Guard's own battle anthem, the pests had been swept away.



THE REVOLUTIONARIES ARE BETRAYED

By 1967, Red Guard units had overthrown party authorities in entire districts and the country had become engulfed in a civil war-like chaos. By the time rival factions began emerging in the Red Guard, Mao's political opponents had been suitably marginalised, and he could now afford to crush the revolt he had instigated. In the summer of 1968, Mao ordered the Red Guard to disband. Lin Biao's PLA seized buildings occupied by Red Guards and millions of young people were forced into the countryside to toil in the fields. Those who resisted were executed, or killed if they put up a fight. Hundreds of thousands of loyal Mao followers were slaughtered, and it would take three years for the bloodletting to abate. Mao had sacrificed an entire generation for his own cynical political ends.



ASSASSINATION AND INTRIGUE

By 1971, with the Red Guard effectively disposed of, Mao now turned his attention to his loyal general and named successor Lin Biao. The Cultural Revolution had made Lin a powerful man, perhaps too powerful. The military leader, fearing that he was at risk of being purged, plotted to assassinate the 78-year-old chairman.

Mao, though, was quickly onto him. The planned coup was soon exposed and Lin and his family tried to flee to Moscow. But before they could get there, the plane they were travelling on mysteriously crashed, killing everyone on board. To this day speculation remains rife that the crash was no accident. With Lin out of the way, and no obvious successor to Mao's throne, the power mongering began in earnest.

The road to revolution

1958

The Great Leap Forward

Intending to catapult China into the industrial age to bring about a revolution, Mao instead creates a huge famine as farmers abandon the land for factories.

1960-65

Communist party splits

Due to differences over China's future economic development, the CCP fractures. Mao is increasingly criticised by moderates like Deng Xiaoping.

1964-65

Little Red Book published

The head of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Lin Biao emerges as a supporter of Mao. He creates *The Little Red Book* to indoctrinate his troops.

May 1966

Madame Mao put in charge

Mao appoints his wife Jiang Qing (aka Madame Mao) as artistic adviser to the army. She sets about propagandising all aspects of the Chinese arts.

August 1966

The stage is set

Mao announces that Lin Biao will eventually replace him as China's leader. All the pieces are now in place for Mao's Cultural Revolution to begin.

MAO FINDS A MOST UNLIKELY ALLY

By 1972, despite the purges of the Cultural Revolution, China's Prime Minister Zhou Enlai had held onto enough power and trust to remain at Mao's side. This pragmatic politician now sought to end the chaos and restore stability to China's economy. He solved the first problem by getting the still-loyal PLA to crack down on social unrest. An effective, if unimaginative, remedy. His solution for the second problem, however, was one of the most astonishing diplomatic coups in history.

Relations between China and the US had been nonexistent for 20 years, but on 21 February 1972, one of the most right-wing presidents the US had ever elected landed at Beijing airport. For years, straw effigies of Richard Nixon had been used in China for bayonet practice. Yet, at the height of the Cold War, Zhou Enlai persuaded the most conservative leader in Western politics to attend a trade summit with the most iconoclastic leader in the communist sphere. The summit was a success and China's closed economy was cured after decades of wild uncertainty.



THE STRUGGLE SESSIONS

Arguably the most iconic image of the Cultural Revolution is the sight of Mao's enemies being paraded through the streets on their way to Struggle Sessions.

Essentially kangaroo courts designed to rile up the masses, these began with a mob of Red Guards marching to a 'counter-revolutionary's' home or office, dragging them onto the street and hanging a placard around their neck with the nature of their 'crime' scrawled upon it. The victims were then theatrically paraded through the streets, sometimes in an open-topped truck, and brought to a crowded auditorium. Here, in front of a furious crowd, they were chastised, spat upon, and beaten sometimes for days on end. Thousands died as a result – either as a result of the beatings or from suicide.



September 1966

Revolution begins

Under Mao's instruction, Lin Biao makes an inflammatory speech designed to whip up the nation's youth so they'll oust any CCP officials who oppose Mao.

1966-68

Chaos is unleashed

Millions of youths organised into Red Guard units rampage through the country destroying culture and buildings, while attacking Mao's opponents.

July 1968

Betrayal of the Red Guard

With millions dead and the country in chaos, Mao – knowing his opponents have been toppled – sends in the PLA to destroy the Red Guard.

February 1972

The road to recovery

With order violently restored and Lin Biao disposed of, Mao opens up successful trade talks with the US salvaging both China's economy and his dictatorship.

9 September 1976

The end of an era

Mao dies in office aged 82. While the nation wails with grief, his cronies – including Madame Mao – are arrested. Deng Xiaoping replaces Mao as leader.

FORBIDDEN IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

In Mao's China, 'political correctness' was used by the state's legislature to control, repress and bully its population, with often absurdly counter-productive consequences



COSMETICS

Along with perfume, as well as Western fashions, make up was banned

because it didn't conform to the "ideology of the collective proletariat" - or to put it another way, it's use would allow too much scope for individual expression.



MOZART

Along with Bach, Beethoven and all the great classical composers, the complete

works of one of the finest music composers in history were outlawed in Mao's China. Their crime? Being written in a pre-revolutionary time and society.



GOLF

This pastime so beloved by wealthy men in bad trousers was banned almost as soon as

Chairman Mao came to power. The all-powerful leader officially outlawed the pastime across the country on the grounds that he felt it was "a sport for millionaires."



SPARROWS

These birds were exterminated in huge numbers in 1958 due to concerns that

they ate too much of the rice harvest. Without sparrows, however, China's locust population boomed, harvests were wiped out and people starved in their millions.



GAMBLING

Mao considered betting to be a hugely destructive vice and banned it in all

its forms - from casinos to mah-jong - in 1949. In 1957, his government created the re-education through labour programme that was, in part, used to punish gamblers.



PETS

Seen as a symbol of bourgeois decadence, owning a pet dog was against the

law. Under Mao's rule, dogs were smuggled out of the country, or eaten by an undernourished populace. Dogs practically disappeared from China during this time.



THE BEATLES

While the rest of the world was getting down to the music of the Fab Four during

the 1960s, the work of Lennon and McCartney - like all Western rock music - was banned from the airwaves for being symbolic of "bourgeois western decadence."



THE SOUND OF MUSIC

All Hollywood films were banned under Mao, including the famous 1965 musical

starring Julie Andrews. Not that the ban stopped Madame Mao from singing along. A huge fan of the film, she would watch it in her private screening room.



CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The festivities were banned in 1967, during the darkest days of the

revolution, on the grounds that the people needed to "change customs". They were eventually reinstated years later after Mao had died.



DR SEUSS

Or more specifically, *Green Eggs And Ham* for its "portrayal of early Marxism."

How one could draw connections between the theory of dialectical materialism and a story about a creature offering a man called Sam lime-coloured food is anyone's guess!

THE END OF MAO AND HIS CRONIES

Chairman Mao died of heart failure on 9 September 1976 aged 82, and with him died the last embers of the Cultural Revolution. Mao's chief architects of the Cultural Revolution - Madame Mao, Wang Hongwen, Zhang Chunqiao and Yao Wenyua - now began lobbying to replace him.

Known collectively as the gang of four, this group had enjoyed years of privilege and power, and were despised throughout the Chinese Communist Party. Without Mao to protect them, they were soon arrested and imprisoned.

Ironically, the man who did replace Mao after his death was probably his greatest critic. Deng Xiaoping had been one of Mao's harshest detractors a decade before. Indeed, Deng's loud criticism of Mao's misguided economic policy had been instrumental in persuading Mao to unleash his dreaded Cultural Revolution.



THE DEATH TOLL

Mao was responsible for more deaths than anyone in history. A 2005 study put the estimated number of people who died under Mao's regime at 70 million. The Great Leap Forward's famine accounted for 38 million, while the Cultural Revolution was responsible for most of the remaining 32 million.

MAO'S LEGACY

In 2013, the 120th anniversary of Mao's birth saw both celebratory parades throughout China and Chinese critics reminding us of his atrocities. His position as father of modern China is indisputable, as is the role he played in liberating its people from oppressive rulers and foreign invaders. It's also true that, having reached such a vast audience, he was one of the 20th century's most influential thinkers. But his ideas about how to put Marxism into practice caused misery and famine. His refusal to accept this, and his willingness to sacrifice an entire generation rather than adapt, also reveal him to be one of history's great villains. A man who, despite his iconoclastic teachings, ruled China with greater ruthlessness than any of its ancient emperors.



*Task Accomplished.....
July, 1969*



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

DEFINING MOMENT

MOON LANDING, 20 JULY 1969

Bringing an end to the Space Race, Neil Armstrong became the first man to step foot on the Moon, achieving something many thought would never be possible.

Apollo 11 lunar landing

Eye Witness

JACK GARMAN



John R 'Jack' Garman is a computer engineer who worked at NASA from 1966 to 2000. In 1969 he was a key figure in the Apollo 11 lunar landing, responsible for overseeing the primitive computer on-board the spacecraft. Now retired, Garman had a long and fruitful career at NASA, although perhaps no mission was as important as Apollo 11.

“It was a very euphoric kind of atmosphere; by jove, we actually did it, they actually landed on the Moon”

At 8.18pm (GMT) on 20 July 1969, Americans Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to land on the Moon. It is arguably mankind's greatest accomplishment to date, but over 380,000 kilometres (240,000 miles) away, those people in NASA's Mission Control Center at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, were celebrating out of relief as much as joy, having just overcome one of the most difficult and technical missions in human history. Inside Mission Control, computer engineer Jack Garman was at the heart of the celebrations, having just saved the mission from disaster minutes prior to the landing.

At the time of the Apollo 11 landing, Garman was very young in comparison to his colleagues. He'd joined NASA as a fresh-faced 21-year-old in 1966, straight out of college. Within just three years he had acclimatised himself with the workings of the computer that would power and control the Apollo 11 spacecraft, and on the day of the landing was tasked with watching over those computers to ensure the landing went without a hitch. These computers were rudimentary at best in nature, though and not easy to operate.

"It was strange, different, to have a system, a vehicle, that was run by computer. I mean, today even our cars are run by computers, but back then almost all the systems were analogue," explains Garman as he tells

us about his work in Mission Control: "They wanted a so-called expert in the control centre, so they gave me a council in the Apollo Guidance Computer support room and that's where I spent a lot of time during most of the flights to the Moon."

On the day of the landing, Mission Control was bustling and buzzing with hundreds of people: "During the landing itself I remember that when they got near the lunar surface, Buzz Aldrin made a call-out saying [softly]: 'We've got dust now,'" Garman tells us. "The descent engine was firing up dust from the lunar surface. With all the simulations we'd been through it was kind of like a script, but he'd never made that call before! He didn't follow the script! That was an awakening. I mean, you knew it was real, but still, wow! This is it, they're about to land."

It turns out though, that as they were preparing to land, unbeknownst to the astronauts, Garman had performed some vital preparations that would ensure the mission could continue and history would be made that night. Garman and his team were responsible for ensuring they could overcome any programme alarm that might be thrown up by the primitive computer, but one alarm still seemingly stumped some of the brightest minds ever assembled.

During one simulation prior to the landing a computer alarm came up, known as a '1202 alarm', which Garman

How the Moon landing unfolded

- GMT
- 17:44pm • **The Lunar Module separates from the Command and Service Module in lunar orbit.**
 - 19:08pm • **Moon descent**
Armstrong and Aldrin begin their descent to the lunar surface.
 - 20:04pm • **The Lunar Module is now just 15,200m (50,000ft) from the surface of the moon.**
 - 20:10pm • **The lunar module descends to 9,100m (30,000ft).** 
 - 20:14pm • **Threat to mission**
The 1202 programme alarm flashes up, but Jack Garman realises it is safe to continue.
 - 20:15pm • **Armstrong and Aldrin pick a new landing site having lost track of their location during the alarm.** 
 - 20:16pm • **The low-fuel quantity light flashes on, meaning the crew has just seconds' worth of fuel to land the Lunar Module.**
 - 20:16pm • **Finally dust is kicked up by the vehicle, meaning the landing is just seconds away.**
 - 20:17pm • **Armstrong and Aldrin successfully land on the lunar surface, the first humans to land on another world.**
 - 22:12pm • **For the next few hours the crew performs checks on the spacecraft.**
 - 23:43pm • **One small step**
Armstrong prepares for the first lunar spacewalk and three hours later he becomes the first human to walk on the Moon. Aldrin follows half an hour later. 

and his team hadn't seen before. His superior at the time, guidance officer Steve Bales, called for an abort. "Afterwards Gene Kranz, who was the flight director for the Apollo 11 landing, boy did he get mad," explains Garman. "He was all over the simulation guys for putting in a simulation that caused an abort this close to the real flight. And the simulation guys said: 'Uh uh, wrongo bongo fella, you're supposed to recover from this.' After the debriefing, oh boy, did the fur fly."

Kranz told Garman to make sure he knew every possible programme alarm that could come up. So the young computer engineer studied them all and drew himself a cheat sheet he could refer to during the mission. It just so happened that Garman's diligence in doing his homework helped save the mission when it was just minutes away from landing.

During the mission, as Armstrong and Aldrin were descending to the lunar surface, an error reading came up that suggested the on-board computer was running over capacity, the same 1202 alarm that had come up during the simulation. As had been witnessed in the simulation, such a reading was a cause to abort the mission, as Aldrin and Armstrong would not be able to operate the Lunar Module if the computer was not working. Thanks to the flight director's insistence that he brushed up on programming alarms, Garman was the only person in the room who knew this alarm was no reason to abort the mission, and he quickly let his superiors know.

"I looked down at the cheat sheet, saw what [the alarm] was and told them it was okay," says Garman: "As long as there weren't other indications like that the computer was guiding the vehicle to turn upside down or something, we were go. And that's the call they made.



NASA Mission Control during the Apollo 11 mission - Jack Garman was regularly in this room during the mission

Now, to be clear, the speed of light is pretty fast, but it's still a couple of seconds when you're going from the Moon to Earth, and that's the same rate at which voice or radio transmission goes. So when the alarm happened we didn't hear Buzz Aldrin asking what it was for several seconds. And then take a few seconds to give a response and give it back to them, then for the CAPCOM [Capsule Communicator] to call up and say they were go, then add the reaction time for human beings, it was probably [in total] 19 or 20 seconds for the crew before they got a response from us, very nerve-racking. We know it's one of the reasons Armstrong lost track of where he

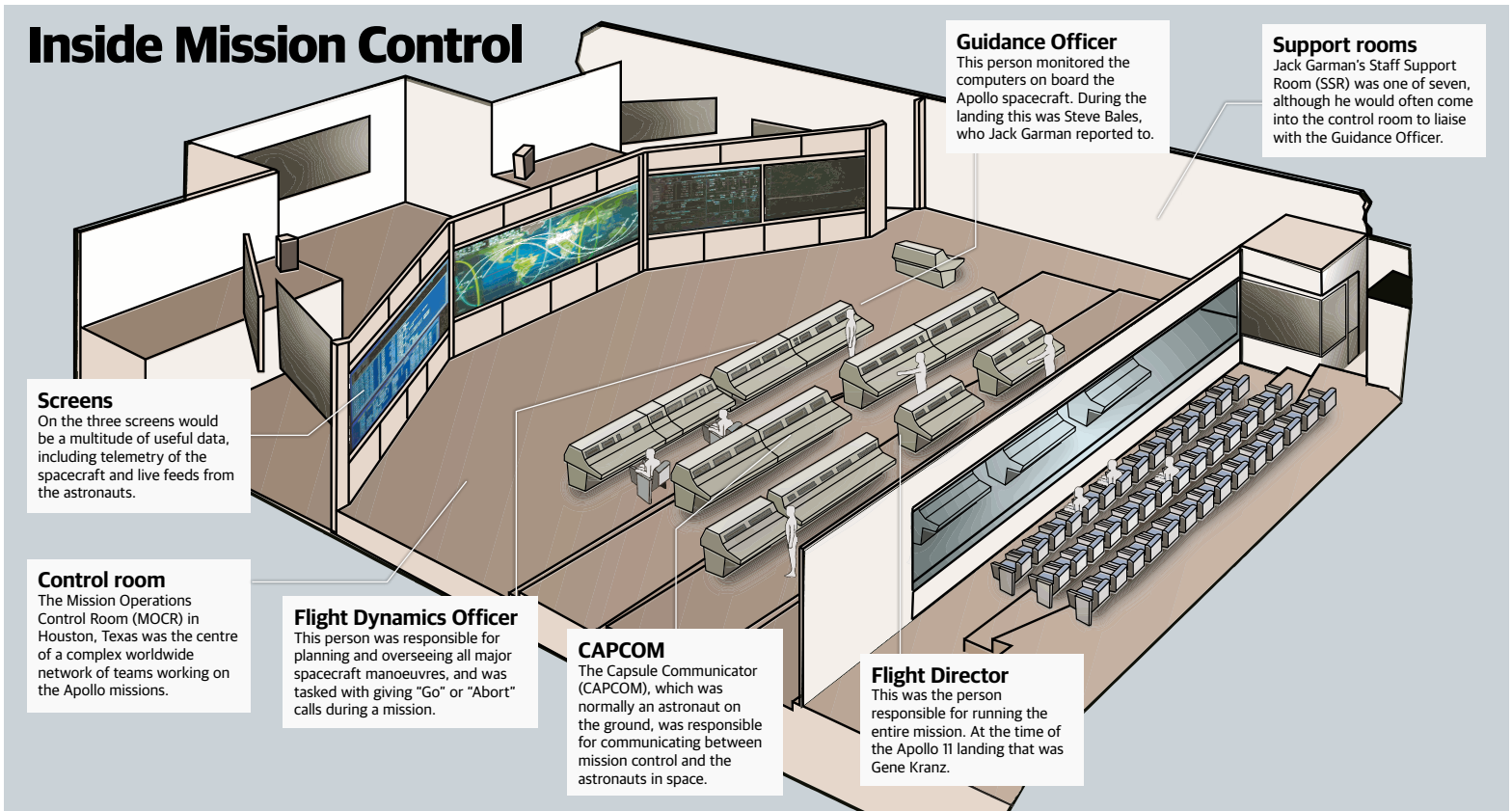


The swing arms move away and a plume of flame signals the liftoff of Apollo 11



NASA and Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC) officials celebrate the historic event of man successfully walking on the Moon

Inside Mission Control



"As long as there weren't other indications like that the computer was guiding the vehicle to turn upside down or something, we were go"

was [above the Moon] because he wasn't looking out of the window. They didn't know where they had landed for quite a while after they touched down, probably in a large part due to the disturbing nature of these programme alarms."

Just a few seconds later, though, Apollo 11 did indeed land safely. As Aldrin and Armstrong celebrated, so too did everyone back in Mission Control on Earth. "I remember Kranz had to calm everybody down, get back to your seats, it's time to go through the landing checklist, and get everything safe and get them ready to get out and all that jazz," says Garman. "It was a very, very euphoric kind of atmosphere; by jove, we actually did it, they actually landed on the Moon."

Garman describes the mood in Mission Control at the time of the landing as eerie. "What I mean is it's like being an actor in a play," he explains. "You go through a lot of rehearsals and dress rehearsals, and then there's actually opening night. When that curtain goes up there's a real audience out there and it's a different feeling. It's eerier. And that's as close as I can get to describing what I mean by eerie. When you have been through the procedures and lots of simulated problems, and you've been through vehicle tests where you're watching the real vehicle on the launchpad and then you actually do it for the first time, and they actually land, you go wow, this is something. That's what I mean

by eerie. Not eerie in a sense of unreal, but eerie in the feeling it gave. It was very real, for sure."

It was an incredibly proud achievement for Garman and his colleagues: "I think that any time you can be in a job where you feel like you're higher up on the triangle - and I don't mean that in a superior way - but you're not in a factory building stuff or supplying food, you're not even in education providing teaching, but you may actually be helping to further the knowledge of the human race in some way, you can feel good about that. I certainly did. We certainly did. And to be in that kind of a job and to have the excitement and risk and adventure that goes with it, it's a very self-fulfilling feeling. It was pretty easy to be dedicated and tenacious, spend way too much time at work, that kind of thing. I was very proud to have been part of that, and I was proud to have been part of the on-board computer for the Space Shuttle as well, and for everything else I did for NASA."

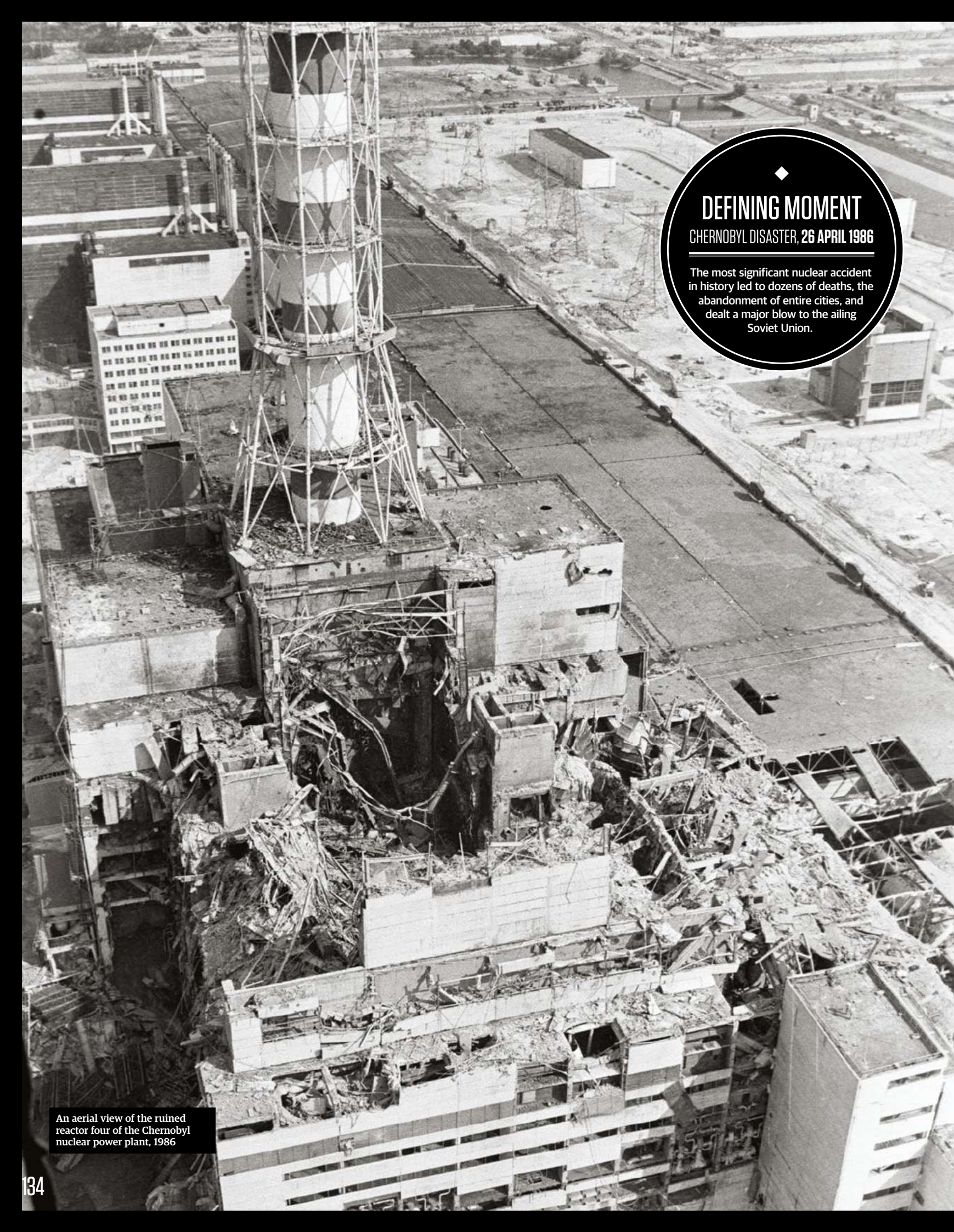
For Garman, Apollo 11 was an experience of a lifetime that will remain one of mankind's greatest achievements in the history books. "I doubt that sort of accomplishment will be repeated, at least not in my lifetime. I think apart from putting a human being on Mars or something like that, that's a ways away. Even going back to the Moon or going to an asteroid, even if that happens, it won't be quite the same as the first time. It never is."

Origins and aftermath

The Apollo 11 lunar landing was the culmination of the space race between the USA and the Soviet Union that had begun with the Soviets launching the world's first satellite, Sputnik 1, on 4 October 1957. For much of the Sixties it had seemed the Soviets were ahead due to the many 'firsts' they achieved, including the first human in space in 1961. But ultimately, the Soviets' failure to build a capable manned lunar rocket saw USA claim victory. Five more lunar landings would take place before the Apollo programme was finished, but ultimately this competition would pave the way to cooperation in space exploration between the USA, USSR (now Russia) and other countries that we are still seeing the benefits of today, with programmes such as the International Space Station.



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DEFINING MOMENT

CHERNOBYL DISASTER, 26 APRIL 1986

The most significant nuclear accident in history led to dozens of deaths, the abandonment of entire cities, and dealt a major blow to the ailing Soviet Union.

An aerial view of the ruined reactor four of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, 1986

CHERNOBYL

A seemingly routine safety check led to the worst nuclear accident of the 20th century and helped bring about the end of the Soviet Union

The Chernobyl nuclear power plant is a large and imposing building, easily dwarfing the trees in the forest around it. To many this gargantuan industrial monster that spewed out smoke and power was a sign of the Soviet Union's ambitions. Situated in Ukraine (part of the Soviet Union until 1989), approximately 16 kilometres (10 miles) northwest of the city of Chernobyl, work began on the plant in the Seventies with the first reactor commissioned in 1977. By 1984 four reactors were active. Each reactor was capable of producing one gigawatt of electricity and the plant provided approximately 10 per cent of Ukraine's electricity. The Soviets weren't stopping there though. By 1986 two more reactors were being built, with ambitions to make Chernobyl one of the world's largest nuclear power stations.

The plant also provided a living for the local inhabitants and numerous people had moved into the region because of their work with the nuclear power station. In fact, the town of Pripyat had been built in 1970 to house almost 50,000 plant workers and their families, less than two miles from the sprawling power station. It may have looked industrial and ugly, but it was good for the region's economy and served as a symbol that the Soviets were as technologically advanced as any of the decadent countries in the west.

One of the men who earned their living from the plant was Aleksandr Akimov, a night shift supervisor. On 26 April 1986, he was in charge of a seemingly routine safety test on reactor four. In less

than two weeks time he would be dead from severe radiation poisoning from the worst nuclear accident of the 20th century.

The plant may have been highly effective at generating power, but safety concerns had been raised. The four reactors were of the Soviet RBMK design, which produced both plutonium and electric power. This meant that they were different from standard commercial designs, as they employed a unique combination of a graphite moderator and water coolant. Adding to these safety concerns, the reactors were unstable at low power, primarily owing to control-rod design.

In 1986 the Soviet Union was an 'interesting' place. In five years' time its communist structures would come unceremoniously crashing down and the Soviet Union would be dissolved, leading to the biggest change in the country for a generation. However, at the time of the Chernobyl disaster, the old mechanics of government were still clinging on and the old adage, 'knowledge is power', was at the heart of the authoritarian government's policies. There were those who were concerned - although given how seriously the Soviet administration took secrecy the numbers in the know were limited - that the Chernobyl plant did not have the massive containment structure common to most nuclear power plants elsewhere in the world. This meant that if an accident occurred, radioactive material would not be adequately contained, but seep into the environment and cause untold damage to people and natural surroundings.

This hotel in Prip'yat has not seen guests since the accident in 1986



The abandoned town of Prip'yat is seeing nature retake some areas

This secrecy ran not just to the knowledge held by other countries, but also to their own people. Aleksandr Akimov's superior at Chernobyl was Anatoly Dyatlov, deputy chief engineer. When the Soviet Union's authorities later tried Dyatlov, desperately looking for scapegoats, he stated that he did not know of the previous accidents that had occurred at reactors of the same type, even though several had. It may seem strange that the authorities wouldn't want engineers to possess all of the pertinent facts about the equipment they were working with, but such was the culture.

There are conflicting reports about the circumstances of the disaster, with some claiming that Akimov and other engineers were reluctant to carry out the test but were pressured into doing so by Dyatlov. The deputy chief engineer later countered this and said the atmosphere in the plant was normal and no one was anxious about the test proceeding. The test was to examine whether the reactor could operate under electricity generated by its own turbines and produce a backup source of electricity to keep the reactor going in the event of

"Parts of the exploded roof landed onto the roof of the still operating reactor three and several fires sprung up and began to dance"

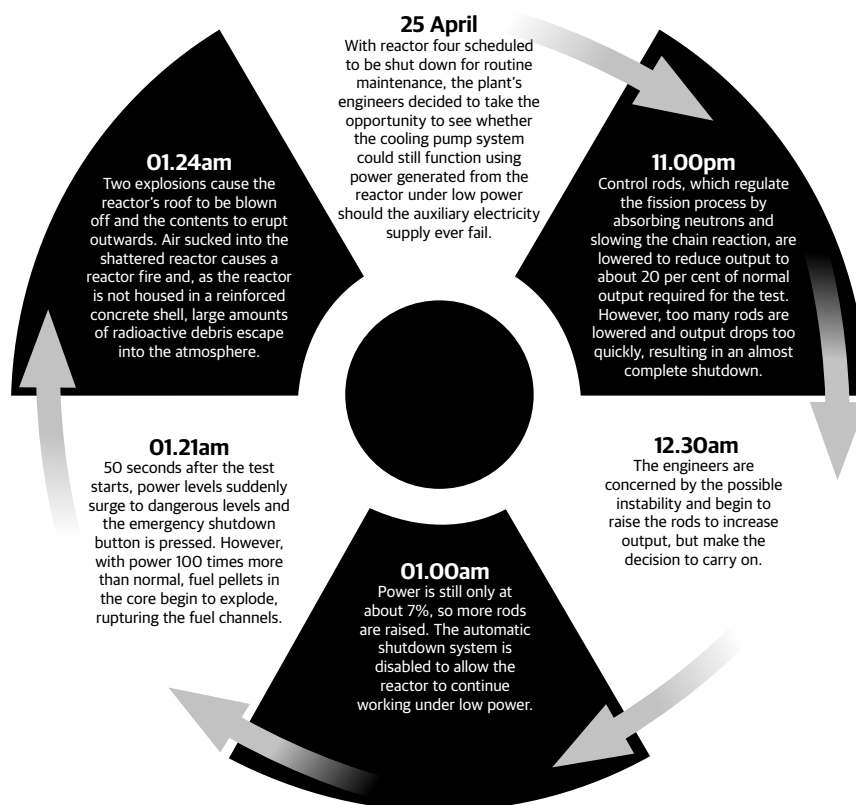
Ghost town

The town of Pripyat is located just 1.8 miles (three km) away from the nuclear power plant and had a population just under 50,000 at the time of the Chernobyl disaster. It was a growing town with 15 primary schools, five secondary schools, a hospital and sports and recreational facilities, including an Olympic-sized swimming pool. After the accident, residents were evacuated but told they could return in three days time, meaning that many possessions are still in the city to this day. Some residents have returned to the area, but none have been allowed back into the town, as it is still quarantined due to high levels of radiation.

The city is a historical monument to life in the Soviet Union in the Eighties: walls still display propaganda slogans and the houses and factories speak of a different era. In some parts nature is reclaiming areas, and in 2002 the city opened as a slightly macabre tourist destination for those willing to sign a waiver in case they die of radiation poisoning.



Countdown to disaster



a general power failure. Several safety features that could have interfered with the test were deliberately turned off.

When the test began it quickly became apparent that something was wrong and the special button that triggers an emergency shutdown was pressed. Nothing happened.

In an interview later Dyatlov said of the incident: "I thought my eyes were coming out of my sockets. There was no way to explain it. It was clear this was not a normal accident, but something much more terrible. It was a catastrophe."

After only a minute reactor four's roof was suddenly blown off into the air, and radiation began seeping out of it. The dozen people in the control room - including Akimov and Dyatlov - were exposed to shocking levels of radiation and five of them died soon afterwards from radiation burns. The radiation levels in the worst-hit areas of the reactor building have been estimated to be 5.6 roentgens per second (R/s). A lethal dose is around 500 roentgens over five hours, meaning that some workers received fatal doses in less than a minute. Unfortunately for those working in the contaminated area, a dosimeter (which measures an individual or object's exposure to radiated energy) capable of measuring up to 1,000 R/s was buried in the rubble of a collapsed part of the building, and another one failed when turned on. All remaining dosimeters had limits of 0.001 R/s and simply read

An abandoned classroom in Pripyat, where everything was left behind in what was called a 'temporary' evacuation



'off scale'. Therefore, the reactor crew could only ascertain that the radiation levels were somewhere above 0.001 R/s and did not have confirmation of the truth: that the radiation was life-threatening.

Due to these inaccurate low readings, Akimov assumed the reactor was intact - although to come to this conclusion he ignored the assorted pieces of graphite and reactor fuel lying around the building and the high readings of another dosimeter brought in that was dismissed as 'defective'. Whether Akimov really thought the reactor was intact or he knew the importance of averting further disaster is mere conjecture. What is fact is that he stayed with his crew in the reactor building until morning, sending members of his crew to try to pump water into the reactor and that none of them wore any protective gear.

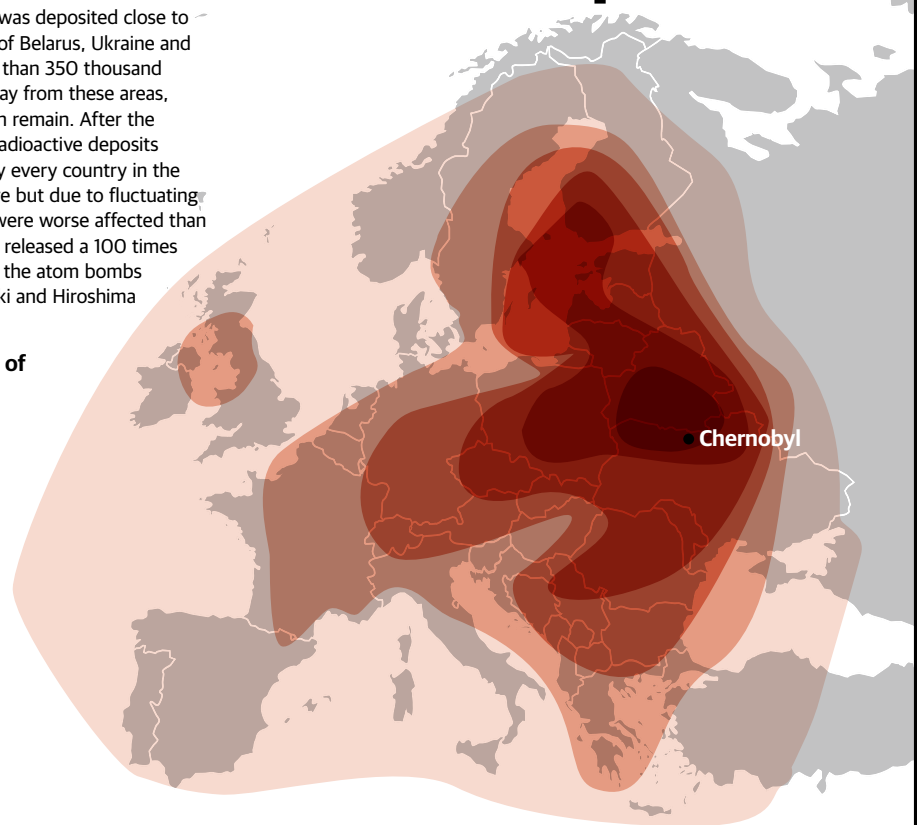
The radiation leak wasn't the only danger. In flagrant disregard of safety regulations, a combustible material, bitumen, had been used in the construction of the reactor building and turbine hall's roof. Parts of the exploded roof from reactor four landed onto the roof of the still-operating reactor three and several fires sprung up, dancing on its roof. A Chernobyl Power Station firefighter brigade was first on the scene to try and extinguish the flames; with the main objective to douse the fires around reactors three and four, and ensure that reactor three's cooling system was kept intact to avert further disaster.

Radiation doses across Europe in 1986

Much of the fallout was deposited close to Chernobyl, in parts of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, where more than 350 thousand people resettled away from these areas, but about 5.5 million remain. After the accident, traces of radioactive deposits were found in nearly every country in the northern hemisphere but due to fluctuating winds, some areas were worse affected than others. The disaster released a 100 times more radiation than the atom bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima in WWII.

Dose = multiples of normal rate

- 10⁻² - 1
- 1 - 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 40
- 40 - 100
- 100+





Health physicists in special suits controlling radiation in the fields of the Chernobyl disaster area

"I thought my eyes were coming out of my sockets. There was no way to explain it. It was clear this was not a normal accident, but something much more terrible"

One of the firefighters was Lieut Col Leonid Telyatnikov. In an interview with *People magazine* years later he recalled: "It was a clear night with lots of stars. I had no idea what had happened, but as I approached the plant I could see debris on fire all around, like sparklers. Then I noticed a bluish glow above the wreckage of reactor four and pockets of fire on surrounding buildings. It was absolutely silent and eerie." The firefighters managed to control the blast, but with none of them wearing any radiation protection it was inevitable there would be casualties, especially for those combating the flames on the roof. Six of the firefighters died following their exposure and many others suffered long-lasting damage. Still, it's hard to overstate the importance of their actions; an explosion in reactor three could have led to the destruction of all four reactors and the world would have faced a far greater disaster.

Further catastrophe may have been averted due to the bravery of the plant engineers and firefighters, but radiation was now leaking out of the plant on an unprecedented scale in modern history, and the Soviets' reluctance to share information - even when their citizens were at risk - would lead to further loss of life. The nearby city of Pripyat was not immediately evacuated after the incident and with the townspeople oblivious to events just down the road many of them fell ill and complained of a metallic taste in their mouth before suffering uncontrollable fits of coughing and vomiting. Soviet authorities started evacuating people from the area around Chernobyl within 36 hours of the accident and told the people who were forced to leave their

homes that it was only a temporary measure and that they were safe in leaving behind any personal and materially valuable possessions. A month later all those living within an 30 kilometre (18 mile) radius of the nuclear power plant - over 100,000 people - had been relocated.

The actions of the local Soviet authorities in evacuating the surrounding area were slow, but they were positively proactive compared to the national response. The general population weren't actually informed of the incident until several days later, and even then it was a cursory 20-second announcement on a TV news program stating: "An accident occurred at the Chernobyl Atomic Power Plant and one of the reactors was damaged. Measures have been undertaken to eliminate the consequences of the accident." The only reason this statement was made was because of events occurring in Sweden.

On Monday 28 April, 55 hours after the explosion at reactor four, an alarm sounded at the Forsmark Nuclear Power Station in Sweden; high amounts of radioactivity were being detected and workers were evacuated. As the alarm sounded other nuclear power stations across Scandinavia also detected high radiation levels coming from an incoming nuclear cloud that had originated in the Soviet Union. When asked for an explanation, the Soviet Union's response was predictable; they denied anything had happened. It was only after the Scandinavian countries had announced the source of immense radiation that Moscow issued the statement above and admitted that something had occurred.



Gas masks left behind during the evacuation of Pripjat's primary school

A disaster still waiting to happen?

The effects of the Chernobyl disaster are still widely felt, with different agencies varying in their estimates of the amount of deaths it caused. The World Health Organisation put the figure at 4,000 whereas Greenpeace believe it is at least 10,000 and perhaps considerably higher. The economic costs have also been high, with Mikhail Gorbachev claiming the Soviet Union spent 18 billion rubles on containment and decontamination, virtually bankrupting itself, and costs are still ongoing. There are fears that because of these economic costs the world could be sleepwalking into another disaster.

The long-term plan for the containment of reactor four is the New Safe Confinement (NSC), a 20,000-ton steel arch intended to prevent any radiation leakage into the environment for the next 100 years. The structure will be 190 metres (623 feet) wide and more than 100 metres (328 feet) high. Initial plans were for the NSC to be in place by 2005 but recent reports suggest this will not happen until 2015 at the earliest. A hastily-built sarcophagus has sheltered the reactor since 1986 but there are genuine and serious concerns over its effectiveness.

Despite different governments pledging to help pay for the work to be completed, with the NSC currently eight years behind schedule there are those who fear that the work will never be finished and that the current sarcophagus will begin leaking dangerously high levels of radiation. Then Chernobyl will be the scene of its second nuclear disaster.

Construction of the confinement arch for Chernobyl's reactor four won't be finished until at least 2017

Around the plant action had been taken, even if it wasn't announced. The day after the incident, a government commission was set up and reactors one and two were shut down. A Soviet officer, General Pikalov, set out in a truck fitted with radiation apparatus and rammed through the closed gates to measure the radiation. He established that the graphite in the reactor was burning and that it was giving off an enormous amount of radiation and heat. Shortly afterwards, the government in Moscow was warned and the town of Pripjat evacuated but further mistakes were then made.

First, extinguishing water is added but the high temperature separates the water into hydrogen and oxygen and the resultant explosion releases heat. Thus, the fire is not extinguished but fanned. After three fruitless attempts to quell the flames with water, the authorities decide to throw sand, lead and boron carbide onto the reactor from helicopters. This causes the temperature to finally drop but all those in the helicopters died soon afterwards - of unrelated causes, according to Moscow. Ten days passed until the reactor core was fully extinguished.

With the fire out, those in power began looking for people to blame. To point the finger at substandard equipment would have been tantamount to admitting that the mighty Soviet Union lagged behind its world competitors in matters of technology or safety. No, it was far better to put the blame on human error. Over 25 members of the Communist Party were expelled for their 'role' in the disaster and six Chernobyl workers were accused of violating safety rules during experiments on

reactor four. Dyatlov was accused of sending four subordinates to inspect the burning reactor without telling them of the radiation hazard. All of them were found guilty and given sentences varying from two years in a camp to 10 years in jail.

The government had their scapegoats but, just like the radiation leaking out of reactor four, the political consequences of the accident could not be contained and one of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster was the demise of the Soviet Union. Mikhail Gorbachev had been the Soviet leader for just over a year at the time of the disaster and was embarking on a series of reforms, one of which was to decrease the withholding of information from the population by certain government agencies. Chernobyl gave him the chance to draw a line in the sand between the old and new eras in terms of communications and brought home to him the damage nuclear weapons would cause. He later wrote that this was a major factor in his decision to open a dialogue with the US about decreasing the number of nuclear weapons of both countries.

The disaster at Chernobyl caused great suffering but was also a turning point in the Soviet Union's history and ultimate dissolution. It proved that, towards the end of the 20th century, a Western government that seemingly cared so little for the safety of its citizens was no longer sustainable. As the last Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev, himself later wrote: 'The Chernobyl disaster, more than anything else, opened the possibility of much greater freedom of expression, to the point that the system as we knew it could no longer continue.'

Fall of the Berlin Wall

Eye Witness

ANDREAS RAMOS



Born in Colombia and raised in the USA, Ramos lived in West Germany for seven years before moving to Denmark. He's authored ten books, including a number of best-selling titles. He's also a lecturer in Digital Marketing at the Silicon Valley Business School. He remains an outspoken commentator on the fall of the Berlin Wall and hopes future generations will remember its importance.

“As we made our way into West Germany we could all sense that the whole continent was about to change forever”

For 28 years, the Berlin Wall stood resolute, an imposing symbol of the Soviet Union's cast-iron hold over much of Eastern Europe. For almost three decades, the citizens of the Wall's Eastern side lived under the watchful eye of the German Democratic Republic, a semi-autonomous government laid in place by its Soviet masters in Moscow. Heavily guarded and laced with barbed wire, the 155-kilometre (96-mile)-long, 3.6-metre (11.8-foot)-high structure ensured the German capital remained divided through the fearful years of the Cold War. No East German was permitted to cross the border into the West; the sights and sounds of a free Berlin a few hundred yards away a constant reminder of how fractured Europe had become in the decades following the end of World War II. But as the 1980s drew to a close, this symbol of division became the breaking point in European socialism. Based in Denmark at the time, science and technology student Andreas Ramos travelled to Berlin to witness first-hand the frustrations of a continent boil over in the streets of a divided city.

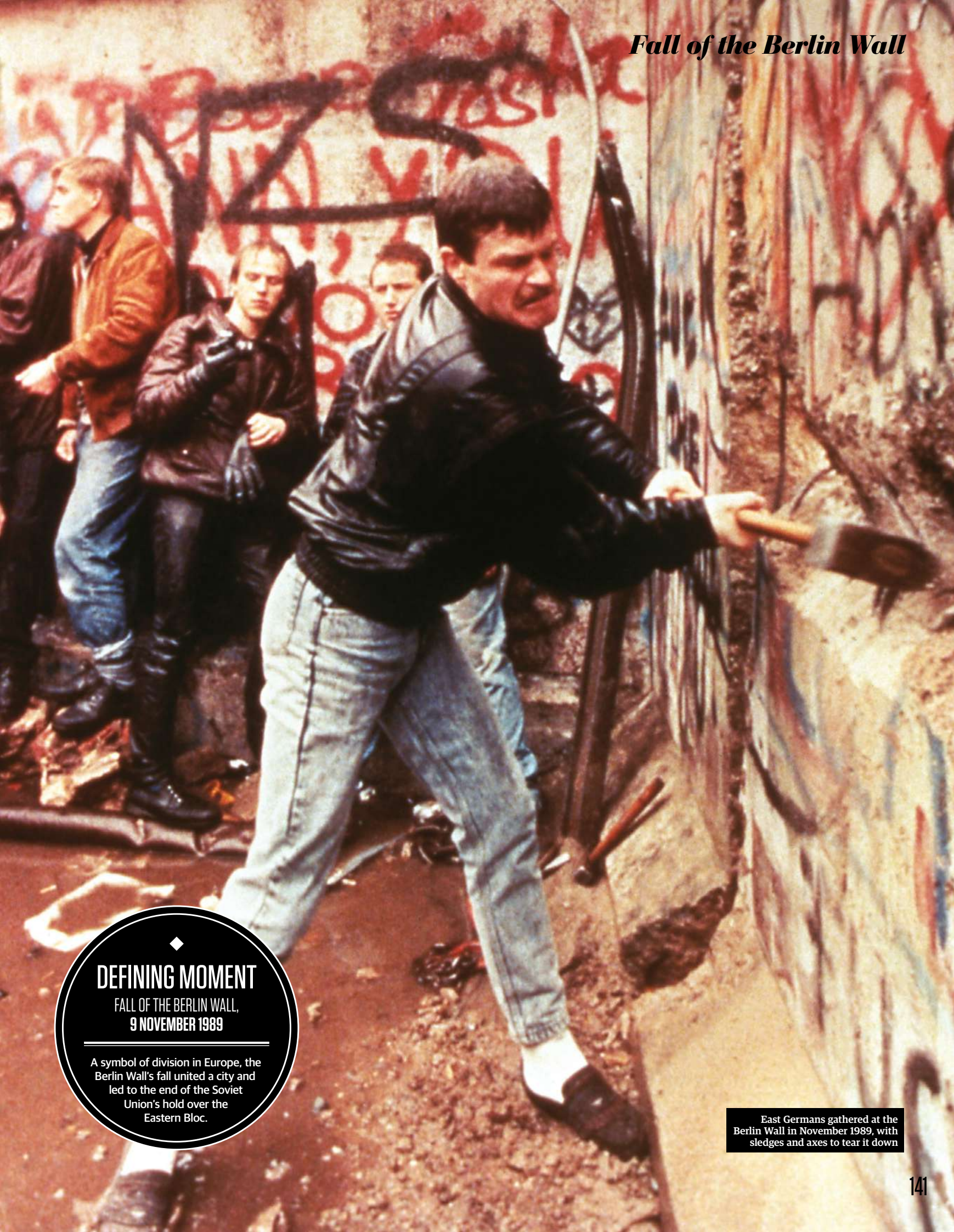
"When I went to study at Heidelberg (in southwest Germany) in 1978 no one in government, academia or the general public could imagine the Berlin Wall would ever fall or the Soviet Union could collapse", explains Ramos. "NATO was built on the premise of eternal conflict with the USSR. But by the mid-1980s, after the USSR's failure in Afghanistan, it was clear the Soviet Union had to change. But collapse? They simply hadn't planned for change. It all happened on the streets, not within the government. I was in Germany for seven

years and then went to Denmark to work on a doctoral dissertation. I'd been to Berlin many times and had friends there. From the edge of the Wall we watched everything, and when the East Germans began to tear down the wall, we joined them."

A month prior, the first metaphorical cracks in the Soviet Union's hold on Eastern Europe started to show. Communication between Moscow and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) government led by hardline party leader Erich Honecker had broken down as the Motherland struggled to contain its rapidly unravelling vision for a united socialist future. Up until this point, the borders of the Eastern Bloc remained intact, but the growing pressure from refugees attempting to flee the failing communist system became too much for the neighbouring Hungarian government to ignore. On 19 August 1989, Hungary effectively opened its physical borders and allowed over 13,000 East Germans to surge across the border into Austria. As the refugees sought sanctuary in the West German embassy, it sent a shock wave through the infrastructure of the Eastern Bloc. A wave that would reach all the way to Berlin and beyond.

Back in the capital, the streets were more alive than ever. A previously morose and subdued city was now bustling as its citizens took up arms in peaceful protests. East Berliners could sense the government was starting to unravel. The resignation of Erich Honecker, the staunch idealist who had stated only months before that the Berlin Wall would stand tall for a century to come, had galvanised the nation's hope for change. The





◆

DEFINING MOMENT

FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL,
9 NOVEMBER 1989

A symbol of division in Europe, the Berlin Wall's fall united a city and led to the end of the Soviet Union's hold over the Eastern Bloc.

East Germans gathered at the Berlin Wall in November 1989, with sledges and axes to tear it down

Timeline of a nation uniting

- CST
- 19 August 1989 • **Prior to the Wall's physical collapse, the political landscape regarding it is already falling apart. The opening of Hungary's borders with Austria can be seen as the initial catalyst.**
 - 4 September • **Peaceful protest**
Following a similar influx of refugees into a now-open Czechoslovakia, a series of peaceful protests are organised across East Berlin.
 - 18 October • **East German leader Erick Honecker is forced to resign by his own party following his refusal to change the city's immigration policies.**
 - 4 November • **We are the people**
With Erick Honecker and his 'shoot to kill' edict removed, the Peaceful Revolution of 1989 reaches its height. The chant, "We are the people!" echoes through the streets of East German cities.
 - 9.30am 9 November • **Crowds begin to gather all along the Berlin Wall as rumours of a policy change run amok.**
 - 1.00pm • **The GDR holds a press conference where it announces all GDR citizens are permitted to cross over to West Berlin.**
 - 5.05pm • **The first few East Berliners make their way into the West as guards quickly lose control of the situation.**
 - 8.00pm • **Media announcement**
Huge crowds gather at the Berlin Wall, hacking it to pieces as the media televises the scenes around the world.
 - 22 December • **Despite multiple breaches in the Wall, the Brandenburg Gate is officially opened for all Berliners to pass through.**
 - 3 October 1990 • **With the Wall itself almost completely demolished, East and West Germany are united in a formal ceremony. The US, British and French governments relinquish stewardship of West Berlin into the hands of a new united and democratic German government.**



Regardless of age, class or background, chipping away at the 28 year-old Wall was a symbolic action that united a nation

'Peaceful Revolution', as it came to be known, reached its height on 4 November 1989, an event that attracted Ramos and many others to Berlin. Arriving on the afternoon of 9 November, Ramos could sense an air of tension, but also one of burgeoning hope. "The build-up wasn't just in Germany; it was the whole year of revolutions across Eastern Europe. The Soviet Bloc was disintegrating, one nation after another", comments Ramos. "As we made our way into West Germany we could all sense that the whole continent was about to change forever."

That evening the inevitable finally became a reality. In the weeks since Honecker's forced resignation, his successors had attempted to rejuvenate the party's reputation by holding a series of press conferences that promised radical changes to national policies. Shortly before that day's official press conference, GDR's official and unofficial spokesman Günter Schabowski was handed a small note that confirmed all East Berliners were now allowed to cross the border into the West with the proper identification. However, without any other explanation to help him digest this news, Schabowski was thrust in front of a ravenous media. One garbled and mostly improvised statement later and it was official: the once impenetrable gates of East Germany were opening. The problem was, this news wasn't communicated down to the guards and officials manning the many guard posts along the wall. With frustration building among the crowds of East Berliners, the situation was a powder keg waiting to explode.



With the sun still high in the sky, citizens from both East and West Berlin clamber on top of the Wall

As the news started to flood across East Berlin, hundreds of people began to gather at each checkpoint demanding to let through into West Berlin. To Colombian-born Ramos, it was utter chaos, but it was chaos charged by hope rather than anger. "It was November and it was extremely cold that night, but in the excitement everyone was milling around in anticipation. Restaurants and bars, which by law were meant to close, were all open well into the early hours. Laws became meaningless that night," he recalls. "People came from all over Europe: we spoke in many languages. There were British, French, Spaniards, Italians, Greeks and many Scandinavians, plus, of course, the Germans. That night, Berlin was Europe. Remember; at the time, there were no cell phones, no video, no Twitter, no Facebook, no selfies, so remarkably, there aren't that many photos of that night. Today, of course, there would be billions of photos."

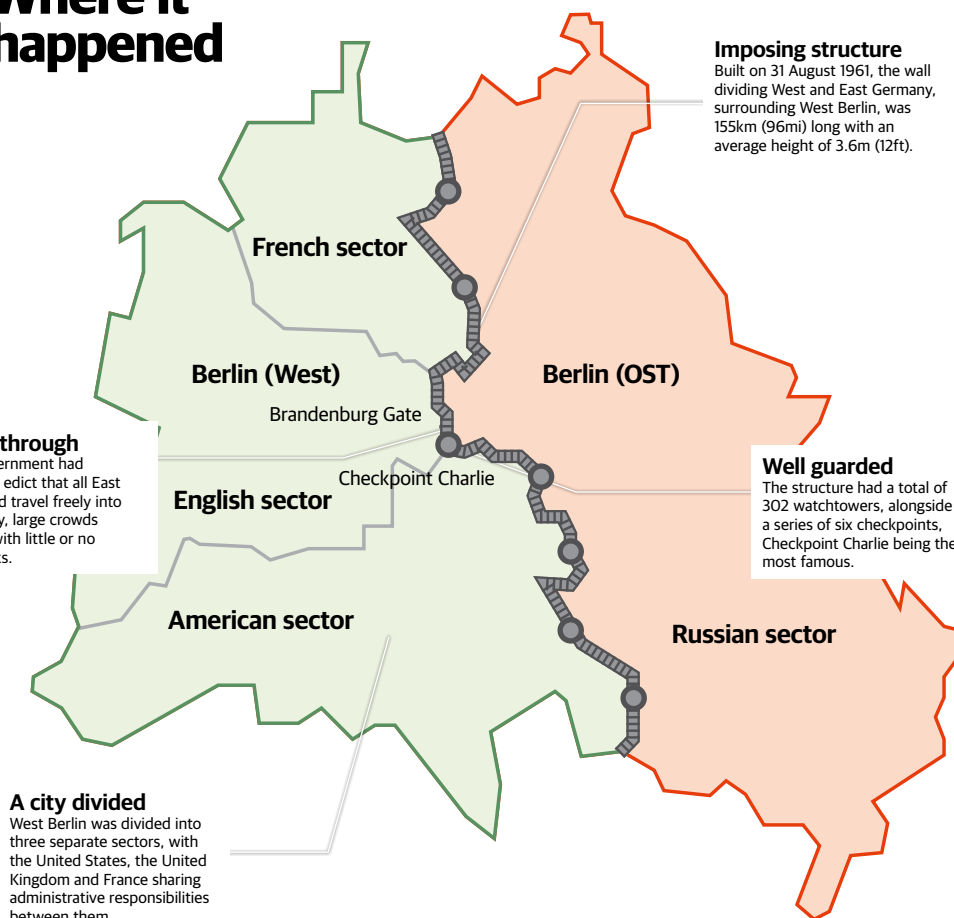
As Ramos and his friends approached the Wall itself, the air seemed alight with a mixture of confusion, frustration and apprehension. "As the news of the law changing spread it became a massive sense of relief, of 'it's over', of excitement. After decades of baseless promises from politicians and pointless dreams of uniting of families, it suddenly became possible in a delirious joy", he says. "Someone wrote it was the world's largest street party, and it was. 5 million people in one city. East Germans flooded across the borders and went visiting throughout all of Germany. The cities declared free bus and streetcar tickets for them, free museums



Where it happened

Breaking through

Once the government had broadcast the edict that all East Berliners could travel freely into West Germany, large crowds passed over with little or no identity checks.



Imposing structure

Built on 31 August 1961, the wall dividing West and East Germany, surrounding West Berlin, was 155km (96mi) long with an average height of 3.6m (12ft).

Well guarded

The structure had a total of 302 watchtowers, alongside a series of six checkpoints, Checkpoint Charlie being the most famous.

A city divided

West Berlin was divided into three separate sectors, with the United States, the United Kingdom and France sharing administrative responsibilities between them.

“From the edge of the Wall we watched everything, and when the East Germans began to tear down the wall, we joined them”

and zoos, free everything for the visiting East Germans. It was an incredible time.”

The Wall was suddenly no longer the impenetrable barrier to another world. East Berliners were flooding into the other side of the city while others started attacking the wall with any tool they could find. The military looked on dumbfounded. Some of them even joined in the demolition job. “It was clear that both governments, East and West German, plus the US military, had lost control”, comments Ramos. “They stood by helplessly, watching everyone bustle around. I talked with East German soldiers who told me their rifles were empty. No bullets. They looked forward to coming across the border. West German police, who are always so orderly and authoritative, just watched. They didn’t know what to do; this had never been planned.” He adds, “many of us pushed through the wall and went to the East Berlin side. It was mutual: West Germans and East Germans tore down the wall together to unite themselves once more.”

Breaking down the wall itself was no easy task, but it became a cathartic coming together of a nation suddenly reunited in matter of hours. Citizens from East and West gathered on each side to start hacking away, pulling

away chunks and lofting them on high, like mementos from a fun day out. Ramos himself was right in the middle of the crowds tearing into the wall that evening. “Opening the Wall went on for hours”, he remarks. “It was made of thick slabs of concrete, nine or twelve feet (three or four metres) high. Small holes were made with hammers, but to open the wall so large numbers of people could pass, industrial machinery was needed. Somehow, West German construction companies showed up with jackhammers and cranes which broke apart the slabs and lifted them out of the way.”

In the following months, Germany was unified as a single, free nation for the first time since WWII and Europe - and the world - was changed forever. Germany would go on to become an economic superpower, but that chilly evening in Berlin has remained an iconic image of social and political upheaval. “It was one of the most astonishing events of my life. It was 25 years ago and I still remember so many moments, especially the mood”, recalls Ramos on that historic day. “The fall of the Berlin Wall ended a chapter of European history reaching back more than a hundred years. However, it also opened a new chapter, and so far, we don’t yet know what it’s going to be or where it’s going to lead.”



Origins and aftermath

Following the end of World War II in 1945, Germany was split into four distinct zones, with each one administered by each of the main Allied forces. Berlin itself was divided in two, with West Berlin existing as a free city and East Berlin absorbed into the increasing Soviet grip on Eastern Europe. In 1961, the semi-autonomous communist government the German Democratic Republic - under direction from the Kremlin - decreed that a new wall would be erected to physically divide the city in two, effectively cutting East Berliners off from the rest of the Western world. For 28 years, the Berlin Wall signified a city evolving in two very different directions. When the first East Berlin citizens passed the guard patrols into the free West Berlin, it was the start of the breaking up of the Eastern Bloc and the first steps toward a unified Germany that would see it become one of the most robust economic powers in Europe.

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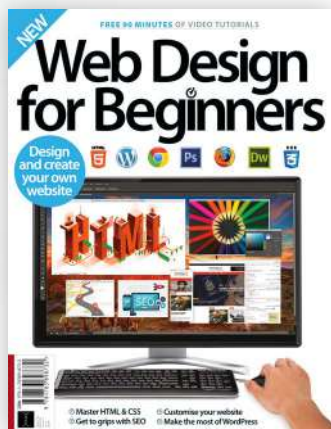


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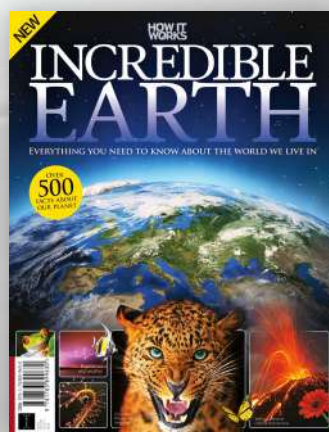
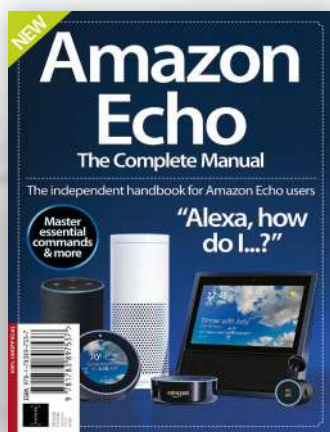


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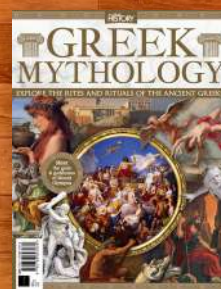
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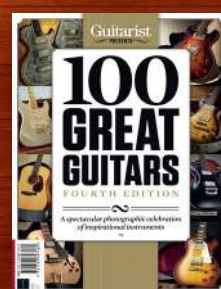
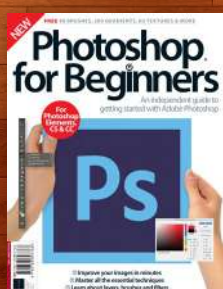
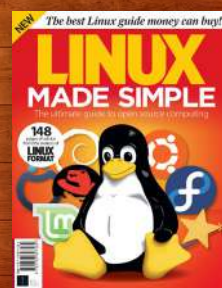
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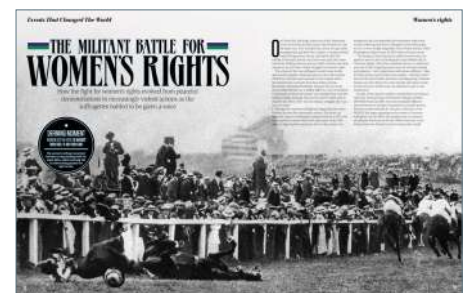
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